

Navy News

www.navynews.co.uk

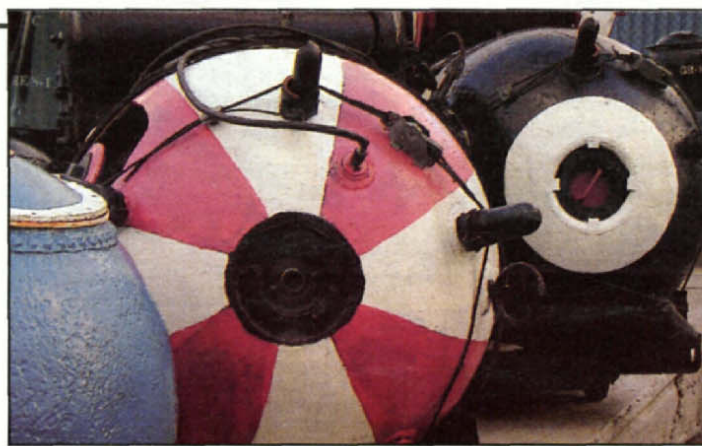
JANUARY 2002 £1.00



Feather-bedded nuclear family **p30**

Mine menace in the Baltic

p22,23



Last pilot dies at 101

— back page



CARRIERS' VITAL ROLE AGAINST TERROR

THE NAVY's planned new aircraft carriers will have a vital role in any future war against terrorism, says Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon.

Announcing a review which could see Britain's Armed Forces take a more active role in the campaign against global terrorism, he said the events of September 11 and after had shown that the Strategic Defence Review had left Britain well-placed to tackle the threat – but a “new chapter” of SDR was needed to build on the platform already in place.

“In future, we may be engaged across a different, and potentially wider, canvas than we perhaps envisaged even at the time of SDR,” Mr Hoon said.

One of the main tasks outlined by Mr Hoon was shaped by the military doctrine that it is better to engage the enemy at long range, before he attacks your homeland.

“We must therefore continue to be free to deploy significant forces overseas rapidly. To do this, we must prevent our enemies from tying up our forces in defence of the home base – otherwise they have won,”

he said. “As part of striking this balance, we need to explore and understand the role of the Armed Forces in defending and protecting the home base.

“The role of the Reserves could be crucial, as we do not want to be committing significant numbers of our regular forces that might be required overseas.”

Mr Hoon pointed out that when considering options for deploying forces, “the flexibility of the two new aircraft carriers we have planned is particularly important.”

The Defence Secretary outlined five possible scen-

● Turn to page 2

TRIUMPHAL RETURNS

SEVERAL weeks after firing the Royal Navy's opening salvos against terrorist targets in Afghanistan – Tomahawk Land Attack missiles launched at a range of 950 miles – HMS Triumph is seen in company with the Type 23 frigate HMS Northumberland in the Red Sea. Northumberland returned to Devonport on December 14 after a seven-month deployment, Triumph arriving three days later – flying her Jolly Roger.
See page 17.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Gary Davies





London's pride

NEARLY 200 Sea Cadets took part in the 2001 Lord Mayor's Show, their parade through the City featuring a field gun crew and a pirate ship float. Here the Honour Guard march along the Embankment. More Sea Cadets on p 36, 37.

Natal's gift hotel up for sale after 52 years

A NAVAL hotel set up as a gift from South Africa after World War II has been put on the market after 52 years after falling numbers made it uneconomical to run.

The terms of the original endowment of the Province of Natal Hotel in Weymouth, paid for by the people of Natal in 1948 to thank the Royal Navy for keeping vital sea lanes open, specified that the establishment was "for the use of serving junior Naval officers, senior and junior ratings and other ranks of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and their families, preference being given to those serving in HM ships or establishments at Portland."

But with the closure of Portland Naval Base in 1998 and the loss of HMS Osprey soon after, there were no longer any serving personnel in the area.

"Over the years the hotel's usage has changed," Capt Martin Appleton, Director General of King George's Fund for Sailors told Navy News.

"It's sad, but young serving people did not take holidays in Weymouth any more, and older people were falling away."

It is hoped the hotel can be sold as a going concern, and the proceeds will be put towards another project to benefit serving and ex-serving Navy people.

No decision has yet been made, but possibilities include another retirement home on the lines of Pembroke House in Kent.

Items of memorabilia from the hotel, including a number of ships' crests, are being transferred to the Fleet Club in Devonport, possibly to a single room to act as a permanent reminder of the Province of Natal.

CARRIERS' VITAL ROLE AGAINST TERROR

● From page one

arios where British Armed Forces could make a difference:

1. Preventing conditions that allow international terrorist organisations to operate.

"We could help less capable states build better capabilities to counter terrorism themselves through our conflict prevention and defence diplomacy activities – for example, by transferring our world-leading military skills.

"Where necessary, we may also have to undertake peace support operations to prevent instability or to assist in stabilisation."

As it was announced that 100 Royal Marines would act as the advance guard of a UK-led peace-keeping force in Afghanistan, others being flown in from HMS Fearless to join those from 40Cdo already in Kabul, Mr Hoon commented that some states, through no fault of their own, did not have the means to maintain control over their own territory.

He added that underlying causes also had to be addressed, so that any British response required political, diplomatic, legal, economic and humanitarian dimensions as well.

2. Terrorist organisations, and the regimes that harbour them, could be deterred by being made aware of the UK's range of military options, and the country's willingness to use them if provoked.

3. Regimes and states which harbour terrorists may need to be coerced with the threat of, and use of, military action if other efforts fail.

4. Support activities for terrorists may have to be actively disrupted, including flows of finances and materials.

"Our Armed Forces may need to develop a more active role in stop and search missions on land as well as at sea, or in conducting search and destroy raids on key terrorist installations.

5. The UK may need to act to destroy terrorist cells and the regimes that support them, and to refine its techniques in collapsing the whole organisation rather than just elements of it.

Mr Hoon reiterated his hope to examine again the role which the Reserves could play in future, relieving the strain on the heavily-committed regulars.

MoD signs up with US to develop multi-purpose missile

SHORE BASE AWARD

A NEW scheme to reward the shore establishment which does most to project a positive image of the Royal Navy has been set up.

The Desmond Wettren Home Command Award will mirror the Desmond Wettren Fleet Award for ships, sea-going units and Naval air squadrons. Nominations should be sent in hard copy, supported by a citation of no more than 500 words, to DPRO, 2SL CINCPACVHOM, Room 233, Victory Building, HM Naval Base Portsmouth by September 30, 2002.

A NEW multi-purpose missile which can be launched from both ground and air is to be developed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and its US counterpart.

They have signed up for a Common Missile programme, aiming to develop, produce and support a missile for use against armoured vehicles, bunkers, radar installations and other targets such as command posts.

The two countries have together committed £40 million to the concept and technology demonstration phase of the project "to investigate likely technologies and architectures".

At the end of this phase in late 2003 the UK will decide whether to commit itself fully to the missile. If it goes into full-scale production, the contracts involved could be worth billions of pounds.

If ordered, first deliveries of the missile could be expected in 2008-10, with a production run of around 16 years and 73,000 missiles divided between the two countries.

Defence Procurement Minister

Lord Bach said: "The Common Missile programme presents a major opportunity for the Armed Forces to meet future battlefield needs at a dramatically reduced cost.

"In particular, the Joint Rapid Reaction Force would benefit from a slimmed down support chain, enabling the Force to be air-lifted into action even more quickly than at present.

"We would achieve improved interoperability and standardisation of equipment, parts and sup-

port, resulting in considerable long-term savings to the taxpayer."

The UK has committed £6 million to the concept phase under a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Defence Procurement Chief Sir Robert Walmsley and US Under Secretary of Defense Pete Aldridge.

This initial phase will assess the practicalities of a single missile, capable of being used on many different platforms against a wide range of targets. A number of subsystem technologies such as seeker, warhead and propulsion will be investigated.

Le Rat Pack

FOUR Super Etendard fighters from 11F Squadron of the French Naval Air Force visited Cuddeby as part of Exercise Rat Trap – and are seen here with their hosts from 849 Naval Air Squadron.

The week-long exercise had RAF St Mawgan serving as the target for attack and also involved Sea Harriers from 899 NAS based at RN air station Yeovilton and RAF Jaguars and Tornados.



Jubilee Medal for five years+

SERVING Navy and Royal Marines personnel with more than five years' service will qualify for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

The OGJM has been instituted to mark the 50th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne on February 6, 2002.

It is a circular, cupro-nickel commemorative medal with a gilt finish, bearing on the obverse the Crown Effigy of Her Majesty and on the reverse a shield of the Royal Coat of Arms surmounted by a crown and flanked by the dates '1952' and '2002'.

The medal is suspended from a ribbon, one and a quarter inches wide, consisting of a red narrow central stripe, flanked each side by a narrow white stripe, a broad blue stripe and a further narrow red stripe.

The medal is to be worn on the left breast, immediately after UK operational service medals, including UN and NATO medals, and in date order with all other Coronation or Jubilee medals.

The medal or medal ribbon may not be worn until entitlement has been confirmed, and subsequent to that the medal may not be worn prior to June 4, 2002, and the medal ribbon may not be worn prior to February 7, 2002.

It is currently estimated that 181,000 members of the Armed Forces will be eligible for the medal, summarised as:

- All personnel who are in paid effective military service with the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force on February 6, 2002 and have completed five full calendar years (1826 days) qualifying service, and were properly enlisted on or prior to February 7, 1997.

- All personnel who are in effective military service with the Voluntary Reserve Forces on February 6, 2002 and have completed five annual bounty earning training years, and were properly enlisted on or prior to February 7, 1997. The annual bounty earning training year 2001/02 must be one of the qualifying years to count.

- Any member of the Regular Reserves who is in effective military service on February 6, 2002 will be eligible if aggregated Regular service and/or Voluntary Reserve service amounts to five years' qualifying service.

- Any member of the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) who is in effective MPGS paid service amounting to five years qualifying service will be eligible for the medal.

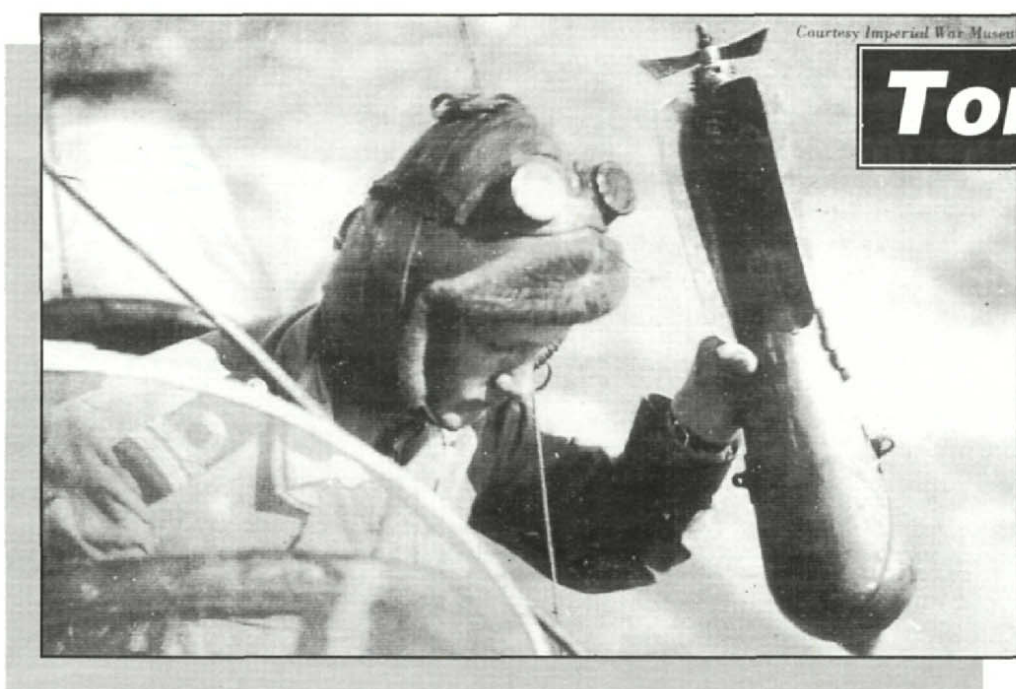
- Correctly contracted personnel of the RFA, in effective RFA paid service on February 6, 2002, having completed five full calendar years of service.

- Cadet officers and Cadet Adult Instructors with a total of five training years' service will also be eligible providing they are in effective service on February 6, 2002 and in an established post, must have started on or before February 7, 1997 and the training year 2001/02 must be one of the qualifying years to count.

Combinations of all these categories may be aggregated and previous equivalent service with Overseas Dependent Territories or Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is Head of State will count towards eligibility upon proof of service.

The appropriate single-Service medal offices will, on February 7, determine individual eligibility and begin to issue the medal to individuals and units. This issue will be on a priority basis to ensure that those who require to wear the medal at official Jubilee events at which the Queen or her representative will be attending will be correctly dressed.

Individuals/units should not apply for the medal – it is intended that all will have been issued by Christmas.



Tomahawk, 1914

IN OCTOBER 2001 HMS Triumph – after speeding from Iceland to the Gulf area following the events of September 11 – fired two Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles at a range of 950 miles. Both hit their targets. In World War I the Royal Naval Air Service relied on a clear eye and a steady hand to counter the Zeppelin threat...

This picture appears in Sheppey and the Royal Navy (Sheppey Heritage Trust £4.99) in a chapter on Eastchurch – the founding station of the RNAS – by Air Commodore Bill Croydon.

Ninety years ago, on January 10, 1912, Cdr C. R. Samson flew off HMS Africa in Sheerness Harbour from a staging erected over her bows) and returned to Eastchurch. This was the first time an aeroplane had flown from a British ship.

Shortly after World War I broke out, Samson was able to mount the first ever strategic attack against Zeppelin installations in Germany – and on September 22, 1914 was rewarded with success when Lt Marix of Eastchurch unit dropped a 20lb Hales bomb from 600ft on a shed at Dusseldorf, destroying the new Zeppelin LZ9.

Can anyone identify the young lieutenant in the picture? And was it taken 'live', on ops, or is it a studio job?

□ Last RN World War I aviator dies at 101 – see back page.

Terror campaign shows up value of change

LOOKING back on 2000-2001, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon says many changes have been set in place to meet the challenges of the future.

In publishing the MOD's Performance Report for the past financial year, he noted the investment in new strategic lift aircraft and ships as a highlight.

"The contribution of British Armed Forces to the campaign against international terrorism, although outside the period covered by the Report, has demonstrated the value and impact of these measures," Mr Hoon added.

"2001/01 was another very busy year for defence. As well as continuing operational commitments in the Balkans and Middle East, British Armed Forces made a rapid and decisive difference in Sierra Leone.

"Closer to home, the Armed Forces played a vital role in combating the foot and mouth disease outbreak."

As at March 31 2001, out a total of 34 individual Public Service Agreement targets, 18 had been met, 12 remained on course, one was slipping and only three had not been met.

Significant new capabilities introduced or approved included chartering arrangements for three roll-on roll-off container-ships and approval was given to build up to 12 new Type 45 destroyers.

In March 2001 Mr Hoon had announced that £1 billion of new money had been found to match the existing £1 billion of funding to upgrade the living accommodation of single military personnel.

Invitations to tender for the prime contractor have now gone out with the preferred bidder expected to be selected in July 2002.

The MOD is continuing to control costs, is beginning to bring slippage on equipment projects under control and is achieving over 90 per cent of the Armed Forces' technical requirements, according to the National Audit Office.

Said Defence Procurement Minister Lord Bach: "This year's Major Projects Report is very encouraging. We introduced our Smart Acquisition initiative because we were determined to do better in delivering the equipment the Armed Forces needs to time, cost and performance."

"This report shows that our new working methods are beginning to deliver improvements and that we are controlling costs, slowing the rate of delay and achieving key customer requirements."

"In the last year project costs have fallen by £100 million and there are signs that project delays are beginning to be brought under control. The report identifies the £2.4 billion reduction in equipment procurement costs since the introduction of Smart Acquisition."

e-bluey made even easier

AN ELECTRONIC air letter used by the Armed Forces has become even easier to use with the launch of an offline composer system.

The e-bluey is an Internet-based version of the Forces Air Letter, using a web interface to compose the letter and a PFE mail printer to print, fold and seal letters in total privacy. This can be delivered in half the time it takes to receive a conventional letter.

Wherever Service personnel are deployed on operations – and also on certain long-term exercises – they are entitled to free air letters. The e-bluey is now available to 14 countries worldwide for people serving in all three Armed Forces.

The new Offline Composer (OLC) allows computer users to down-

load a special program to write their letters offline, allowing them to write letters in several sessions and save the different versions.

It also gives access to all functions of the online version, including the address book.

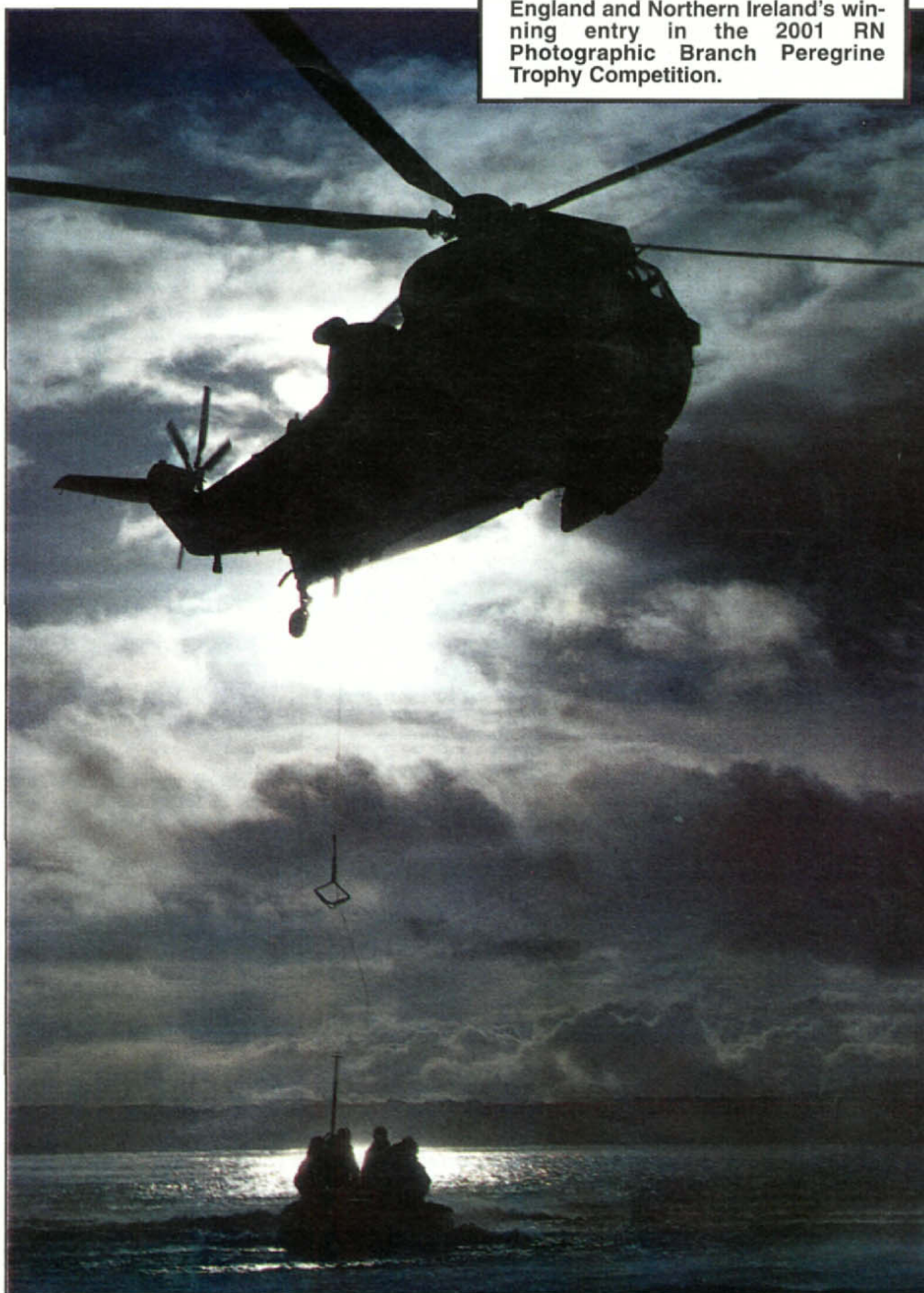
The program has taken more than six months to develop and has been extensively tested to ensure it is compatible with the popular web-browsers.

To use the OLC you need to set up an e-bluey account, if you do not already have one, then download the software using the link at bfpo.org.uk – and this link can also be used for more information on e-blueys and all BFPO (British Forces Post Office) services.

There is also a version of the OLC which works from a floppy disk for those without a regular Internet link.

Moody Blue

That's the title of this dramatic study by PO(PHOT) Tam Macdonald, part of Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland's winning entry in the 2001 RN Photographic Branch Peregrine Trophy Competition.



Question over future plans for HMS Renown

PROPOSALS to dismantle nuclear submarine HMS Renown on land at Rosyth have been shelved until the question of future land storage of redundant submarines has been determined.

Babcock Rosyth Defence Ltd (BRDL) had put forward plans to dispose of the former Polaris missile submarine, but the Ministry of Defence decided not to pursue the scheme while a wider debate on the best way to store redundant boats runs its course.

Defence Minister Dr Lewis Moonie said: "BRDL have done some excellent work to demonstrate that their proposals for dismantling Renown are feasible."

"The reason I have decided not to go ahead with their proposals is one of timing."

"My decision means that Renown will now continue to be stored safely afloat at Rosyth."

"Then, when we have reached final decisions on land storage, she will be treated in the same way as our other decommissioned submarines."

■ Testing on a new Royal Navy nuclear reactor is to begin soon following the award of a £360 contract with Rolls-Royce Naval Marine.

The new advanced Core H reactor will power the Navy's latest and future submarines for the lifetime of the vessel, avoiding the need for costly refuelling.

Trident missile submarine HMS Vanguard, soon to start a two-year refit at Devonport, will be the first boat to be equipped with Core H, which has a life of around 25 years.

The new Astute class will also be equipped with the core, as will Vulcan, the RN nuclear reactor test establishment at Dounreay in Scotland.



● HMS Montrose with two RIBs from the Sierra Leone Navy off Freetown

Picture: LW(PHOT) Louise Weaver

'Exceptional ambassador' tribute to HMS Montrose

THE COMMANDER of British Forces in Sierra Leone has praised the positive impact of HMS Montrose on the war-torn country.

Brigadier P. Davidson-Houston spoke about the efforts made by the ship's com-

pany to improve the lives of the people of Sierra Leone.

He said: "In the short time you have spent in Sierra Leone waters, you have made a considerable impact."

"In particular, you have been an exceptional ambassador for the Royal Navy and the United Kingdom."

He told the commanding officer

of HMS Montrose, Capt Tony Johnstone-Burt: "Your charity work teams deserve special mention."

"Their tireless dedication to the Atlantic Patrol Task (South) Project has been admirable."

"Working in difficult conditions, they have achieved astonishing results in a very short time - they are to be highly commended."

Welfare efforts in Sierra Leone included rebuilding the wall of an orphanage, redecorating a youth club and serving lunch to elderly residents in the community.

Chief Stoker CPO Paul Platt was so touched by the plight of the people he saw that he collected money to pay the high electricity bill for the Firestone Youth club.

The club provides education to youngsters whose families cannot afford to send them to local schools.

Past unrest had left the bill unpaid, and the electricity supply was cut off.

Now the children are able to read and write after sunset.

Montrose has spent the first half of her deployment in West Africa. After Christmas, she was due to take part in Exercise Purple Albatross, a joint exercise with the Army and Royal Air Force off the Falkland Islands.

Model gifts for RN museum

THE ROYAL Naval Museum at Portsmouth is now displaying models of ships that, 60 years ago, took part in one of the greatest naval encounters of World War II.

The three scale models of HMS Hood, HMS Prince of Wales and the Bismarck are 4 feet long, and took over 2,000 hours to build.

The model-maker, Colin Vass, made these ships as a tribute to the 1,400 men who died when the Hood was sunk by the Bismarck in May 1941.

His models of the Hood and the Bismarck can now be found in the Royal Naval Museum next to an existing display about the loss of the Hood.

Colin is a member of the HMS Hood Association, and his models of the Hood and Prince of Wales have been displayed annually at reunions.

■ A day's lectures on the contribution made by the Royal Navy to charting the world's oceans will take place on Saturday, 19 January, at the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth.

The day will trace the development of hydrography from the days of Cook to the present.

For further information, contact 023 9272 7583.

Plymouth Hoe gains cannon

ADMIRAL Sir Nigel Essenhigh, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, has presented two historic ship's cannon to the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor David Viney.

For many years, the barrels of the cannon were sunk into the quayside at 9 dock in Devonport

naval base and used as bollards.

The barrels of the two cannon are grooved from ship cables rubbing against them on the jetty.

Both cannon have now been restored, and mounted on replica gun carriages.

They will be permanently sited on The Hoe.

Dumbarton Castle ready for new role

HMS DUMBARTON Castle returned to Portsmouth in early December for a rare stay at her home port.

She returned to Portsmouth for the first time in three years early in 2001, but then promptly disappeared to Rosyth for a refit.

Her refit was a necessary overhaul after her three-year stint around the Falklands.

In addition, she needed to be equipped for her new role as the tasking authority for the RN minecountermeasures (MCM) fleet.

She will take up command of NATO's MCMFORNORTH, Minecountermeasures Force North, one of the two standing NATO mine-hunting taskforces.

To fit her out for her new role, Dumbarton Castle's gunbay has been transformed into a state-of-the-art MCM operations room.

As another benefit to the refit process, the Senior Rates Mess underwent a major refurbishment, all owed to the Sailors Fund and the Fleet Amenities Fund.

The ship's company only moved back on board Dumbarton Castle in early November, before taking the ship through her paces with sea trials for the rest of the month.

The trials were a success, and will continue up to her Basic Operational Sea Training in Faslane at the end of January.

The one sad note during her training was when Dumbarton Castle was called to help by the local coastguard. Despite her best efforts, she was unable to locate a diver lost exploring a nearby wreck.

Dumbarton Castle will then take part in a JMC before heading off to take up her new role.

Dumbarton Castle will sail for north America after Easter leave to take up her new command MCMFORNORTH, with a chance to visit cities along the eastern coast of America and Canada.

Anniversary

TS STEADFAST celebrates its 90th anniversary with a reunion dinner at the unit on 16 February.

'Old boys' and staff members are all welcome at this big event at Steadfast's Kingston home.

A reunion parade is also planned for 3 March.

Further information is available on 020 8398 8402.

Home needed

A D-DAY veteran is looking for a new home.

Vanessa, an HM Landing Craft Infantry (Small) is a nationally listed historic ship, built in 1943.

Her current owners urgently require a good home for her hull or parts of hull: 01983 874722.

Have You Missed Us?

Limited stocks of back copies 1985-96
1997 - Present, all copies

Ring Anne Young
PORTSMOUTH 023 9282 6040
or order online at
www.navynews.co.uk

Navy News - The Paper that lives up to its name!

"DIDO CLASS" CRUISERS

1:700th Scale Replica Models, hand cast in metal and painted (hull in plain grey) mounted on a wooden plinth 12" x 3" complete with brass nameplate and hand made gift box. Four variants available:

Black Prince (illustrated) & Royalist 1943; Dido, Cleopatra & Euryalus 1940; Charybdis & Scylla 1941; Argonaut 1940



£65.00
Inc. of p&p

To order your model send your name, address and daytime telephone number, along with your cheque or credit card details (visa/mastercard) to:
Angela Bowler, SKYTREX LTD, Park House, 25 Park Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3ED Tel: 01509 233298 Fax: 01509 210336
Email: skytrexld@compuserve.com PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS DELIVERY

CREDIT CARD NEWS



My order is attached for:

Cardholders Name:

Cardholders Address:

.....

..... Tel:

Card number:

.....

Expiry date: Switch Issue No:

Cardholders signature: Amount (Min £5):

.....

CHILDREN from the Cork Group of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust visited HMS Portland when she paid an informal visit to Cork in the Republic of Ireland.

The ship's Supply Officer, Lt Cdr Phil Sparke, had first encountered the group in Lourdes in April 2001, and kept in contact.

HMS Portland earned the gratitude of the local police, the Garda, and fire brigade during her visit.

Sailors alerted the emergency services when a driver determined on suicide drove a car into the river near the ship's berth.

The type 23's sea boat was scrambled to help, and the ship's company supported the efforts to recover the car and its driver's body.

Sailors also took advantage of the chance to see more of Ireland, and even head off to Dublin.

The ship's commanding officer, Cdr Jonathan Handley, set off to Blarney Castle with others from Portland to kiss the famous Blarney Stone, said to endow all who kiss it with the gift of the gab or 'Irish eloquence'.



● OM Darren Clay and Aoife O'Connell on HMS Portland in Cork

Picture: Gerard McCarthy

Ships of the Royal Navy No 554



Making a name for herself

HMS KENT may be a recent addition to the Fleet, but she is already making her presence felt – and making sure her name is known.

The Duke-class frigate was commissioned in mid-2000, at a ceremony attended by Princess Alexandra. Kent undertook basic operational sea training just over a year ago, in February and March 2001.

Last summer saw her undertake visits to her affiliated county, calling in at Dover and Chatham, before taking part in the summer Joint Maritime Course off the Scottish coast.

Another royal visitor came on board last June, when the Duke of York paid a visit. The Duke was in Portsmouth to open the new Action Stations exhibition, which featured film shot on board HMS Kent.

In August came the moment of truth – Kent left Portsmouth for her first front-line deployment, on Armilla Patrol in the Arabian Gulf.

She took up her duties in September, relieving sister frigate HMS Northumberland, and immediately set about enforcing United Nations trade sanctions against Iraq with gusto.

From September to December



● Type 23 frigate HMS Kent on her current deployment to the Middle East.

she was involved in a series of maritime interdiction operations – stop and search when merchant ships aroused suspicion – and her Royal Marines detachment and Royal Navy boarding teams have to date

stopped nine illegal oil smugglers carrying around 30,000 tonnes of contraband oil, worth around £3 million.

The most dramatic seizure was the ninth – breaking the existing Royal Navy record – when Kent followed a group of five ships over 300 miles before pouncing.

She chased at full speed while her Royal Marines fast-roped on to the target's deck from the frigate's Lynx helicopter.

Special cutting gear was used to break into welded bridge doors, but then the tanker veered into Iranian waters, and Kent had to withdraw.

But she waited – and six hours later the tanker reappeared in international waters, and Kent completed the task, sending the ship to the UN holding area.

Christmas was scheduled to be spent in Dubai, with families and friends joining the ship's company, and next month Kent will hand over to another new ship – HMS Portland – and head back to the UK with families and affiliates joining for part of the journey.

Later this year she is due to take part in D-Day commemorations off Normandy.

stillborn – laid down as a screwship in 1860, she was cancelled at the end of 1863.

The eighth Kent was launched as the Impregnable of 1810, taking on her new identity in 1888, and assuming another name, Caledonia, three years later.

Entering the 20th Century, the ninth Kent was an armoured cruiser of 9,800 tons, built in 1901 and sold in Hong Kong in 1920.

A second cruiser of virtually the same tonnage served during World War II, built in 1926 and sold in 1948 for breaking up.

The Duke-class frigate's immediate predecessor was the County-class guided missile destroyer of 1961 which, after serving as an accommodation and training ship in Portsmouth Harbour, was towed to India for breaking up in 1997.

Kent's historic XI

KENT is one of the more popular name in Royal Navy annals, the current frigate being the 12th ship to bear the name.

The first, originally named Kentish, was a 46-gun ship which was wrecked near Cromer in 1672, and the second, a Third Rate built in 1679, underwent two rebuilds before being broken up in 1744.

Kent number three was also a Third Rate, and was only 14 years old when she was hulked in the East Indies in 1760.

Another Third Rate followed within two years, sold in 1784, and another in 1798, this fifth Kent becoming a sheer hulk in 1856 and being broken up in 1881.

The sixth was a gunvessel, bought in 1798, which only served three years, and the seventh was

Facts and figures

Class: Duke-class Type 23 frigate

Pennant number: F78

Builder: Yarrow's, Glasgow

Launched: May 27, 1998

Commissioned: June 8, 2000

Displacement: 4,200 tons, fully loaded

Length: 133 metres

Beam: 16 metres

Draught: 7.2 metres

Speed: 28 knots, 15 knots on diesel-electric

Complement: 174 (16 officers)

Main machinery: CODLAG – combined diesel electric and gas turbine; two Rolls-Royce Spey SM1C gas turbines; four Paxman Valenta diesels; two GEC motors

Weapons: Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles; Vertical Launch SeaWolf surface-to-air missiles; Vickers 4.5in Mk 8 gun; two Oerlikon 30mm guns; Marconi Stingray torpedoes

Radar: Air/surface search: Plessey Type 996; surface search: Racal Decca Type 1008; Navigation: Kelvin Hughes Type 1007; Fire control: Two Marconi Type 911

Sonars: Ferranti/Thomson Sintra Type 2050, bow-mounted, active search and attack; to be fitted with Type 2087 towed sonar

Aircraft: One Westland Lynx or Merlin HM1

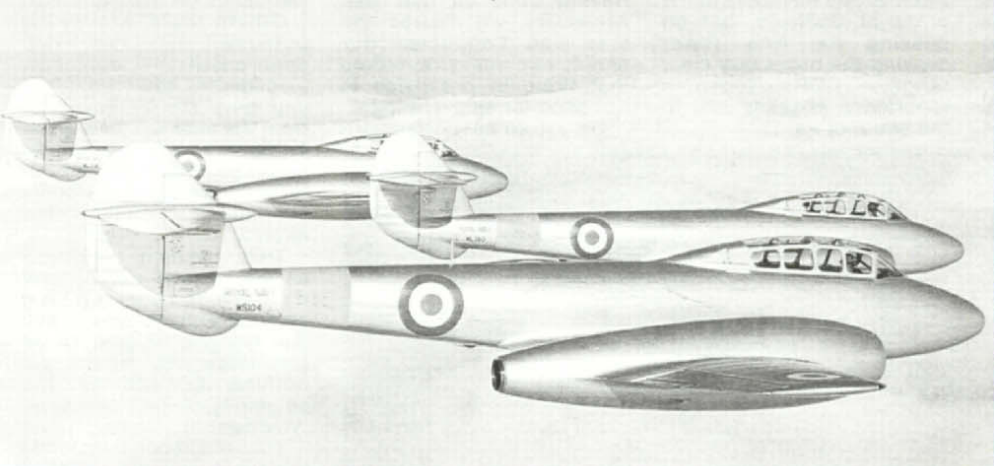
Affiliations: The Mercers' Company; Kent Messenger Group newspapers; Wightlink; Demelza House; 1st and 2nd Royal Tank Regiment; Maidstone Grammar School CCF; Sutton Valance School CCF; TS Churchill Ashford SCC; TS Narvik Bromley SCC; TS Kent Chislehurst and Sidcup SCC; TS Brilliant Tunbridge Wells SCC

BATTLE HONOURS

Portland	1653	Cape Passero	1718
Gabbard	1653	Finisterre II	1747
Porto Farina	1655	Egypt	1801
Lowestoft	1665	Falklands	1914
Orfordness	1666	Atlantic	1940
Barfleur	1692	Mediterranean	1940
Vigo	1702	Arctic	1942-3
Velez Malaga	1704	Normandy	1944

AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL NAVY No 63

● Gloster Meteor T7 trainers of 728 Naval Air Squadron.



Gloster Meteor T7

THE GLOSTER Meteor T7 was a dual-control jet trainer which was developed from the F1, the only Allied combat jet to make it to the front line in World War II, having first flown as a prototype in 1943.

Over the ensuing years a number of variants were produced, one of the last of which was the T7 trainer, making its debut in 1949 and providing the last Meteor to be built, in 1954.

A total of 17 T7s were built for the Fleet Air Arm, which also operated 11 aircraft converted from the RAF.

They were entirely shore-based, serving with 759 Naval Air Squadron at Culdrose and Lossiemouth from September 1952 until April 1954, and 728 NAS at Hal Far in Malta from February 1955 until May 1967, when the jet was retired from Royal Navy service.

T7s were powered by two Rolls-Royce Derwent 8 engines, producing 3,600lb of thrust each. Maximum speed was 585mph, and the machine could climb at a rate of 7,600ft per minute to a service ceiling of 35,000ft.



All NEW subscribers will receive 6 FREE postcard size pictures to kickstart an exciting and interesting collection of ships of the Royal Navy

ONLY £10.50 FOR 12 MONTHS

The featured ship for January is HMS Kent. To receive a postcard size picture of her and of the next eleven featured ships, simply phone 023 9282 6040 or send your cheque/PO for

£10.50 UK price, £12.50 O/S price to the address below.

Each month you will receive a postcard size picture helping you to build a comprehensive and interesting collection.

Orders To:

**The Business Manager,
Navy News, HMS Nelson,
Queen Street,
Portsmouth, PO1 3HH**

Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on a UK bank.

Payment by Credit Card/Switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4

Credit Card orders not accepted under £5



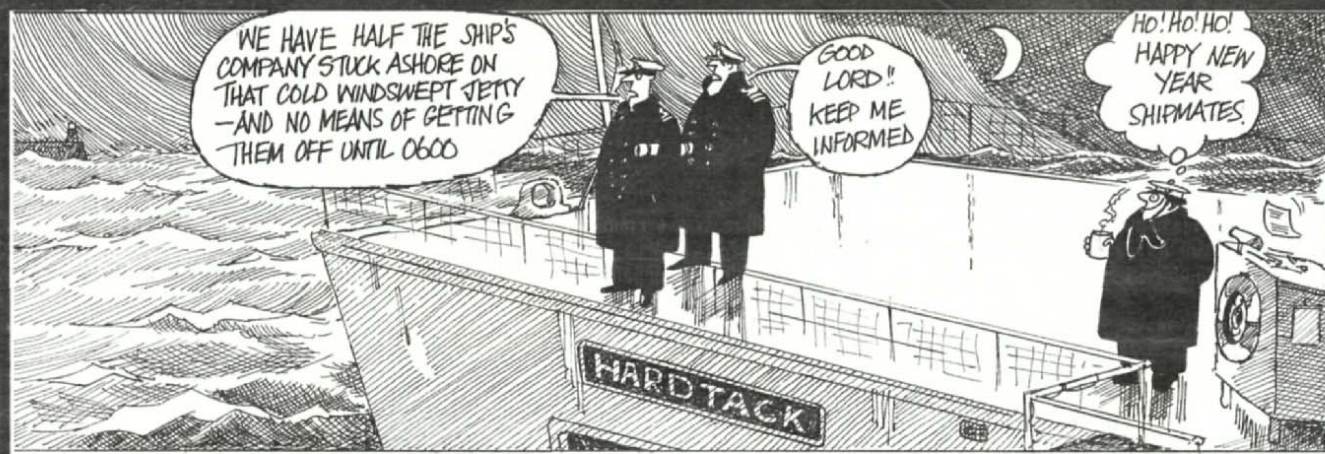
Postcard size pictures from 1956 to present date. There are over 500 black and white glossy postcards available on request at a cost of 65p each (min order £1.95). To receive a free list simply write to the Merchandising Department or phone 023 9282 6040

Or buy online at www.navynews.co.uk



Letters

JACK



Mistaken identities

HAVING been Third Hand and OOW of the submarine HMS Clyde during the encounter with the new Hunt-class destroyer HMS Avonvale off Tarifa in 1942, may I make some corrections to the account printed in your November edition by K. W. Holder, former 'Bunts' of the latter?

The first point is that neither ship was told of the presence of the other by the shore staff. Clyde had left Gib for an Atlantic patrol while Avonvale was arriving from the UK.

When sighted from the bridge of Clyde we were unable to identify this strange destroyer which had not yet appeared in silhouette books or *Jane's Fighting Ships*. Clyde was well publicised.

Avonvale behaved in a strange fashion. First she turned away towards the Spanish coast which caused us to think she could not be British.

Then she reversed course towards us and we could see her 'A' gun's crew closing up. No ensign could be seen.

Thinking she was a foreigner, our CO was reluctant to disclose the recognition signal and none came from her.

When the first round was seen our CO decided to get the hell out of it and ordered us to dive. The bridge was quickly cleared and I had just got one clip on the upper conning tower hatch when there was an almighty bang above, which later turned out to be a hit on our telescopic W/T mast.

Having dived, we made the appropriate recognition signal on Asdics and launched smoke candle recognition signals which presumably were noticed in time to prevent depth charging.

After exchanging recognition signals we surfaced, exchanged some rudeness and proceeded about our business. - Cdr D. W. Mills, Acklam, Middlesbrough.

True tale of carrier that cut no ice

A FRIEND of mine has just returned from holiday in Canada. He visited Patricia Lake and saw a plaque giving details of trials that were carried out during World War II on an aircraft carrier which was to be made from 2 million tons of ice - Magnus Pyke's brother had a hand in the design.

My workmates and I (pilot launch crews) laughed at this idea - but my friend assures us that he is speaking the truth. - M. Stanford, Ramsgate.

Your friend is quite right! Operation Habbakuk was the title of plans to construct from ice either a "relay floating air base" for long range aircraft; an aircraft carrier for shorter range anti-submarine patrols; an advance fighter base; or a cargo ship.

The Fleet Air Arm Museum has a copy of the directive as agreed by the Deputy First Sea Lord dated April 9, 1943: "The ultimate function of the vessel is not specified at this stage, apart from the fact that it must be unsinkable..."

Needless to say, after due investigation it was decided that the project was impracticable. Does anyone have any further details? - Ed

Letters to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication. email correspondents are also requested to provide this information.

Just for fun - Zulu's last war dance

I WAS delighted to read Mr Chalcraft's letter 'Another Broadside' (November issue) reminding me of the events of an amazing final day at sea in the last Tribal Class frigate.

HMS Zulu had been programmed to conduct navigation training in the Portsmouth exercise areas at the end of March 1984. As the last day of the training course was the ship's final day at sea before paying off, and as our classmates (HMS Gurkha and Tartar) had

planned a joint de-commissioning ceremony alongside, we decided to go out in style - some of it planned.

To ensure that Zulu entered the record books we had arranged a final surface practice shoot which would include 'A' and 'Y' mountings firing in broadside. We embarked the trainees and members of the press at Spithead, but on passing the Nab Tower seeking the necessary clear range, GDP lookouts reported a possible AGI to the south of us.

On closing to investigate, it became clear that it was indeed a Soviet intelligence gathering vessel - you can imagine my surprise as it had not featured in any intelligence plot.

We closed up the appropriate recording team, which of course included the BBC team led by the now veteran Bruce Parker. Having done all that was necessary, we cleared the area and conducted our shoot, reminding ourselves that firing in broadside is not good for ship's fittings!

On return to Portsmouth

as the very last Tribal in RN service, we entered in "modified" procedure alpha wearing our paying off pendant. The ship's company had decided that Zulu would be remembered as we had six 'Zulus', some painted appropriately, and dressed in leopardskin loin cloths, carrying shields and assegais and doing a war dance on the flightdeck.

Others were not to be outdone - the ME department somehow managed to have red, white and blue smoke emerging from the after funnel and the Tribal Wasp flight accompanied us up harbour with a White Ensign proudly suspended under the aircraft.

This mayhem continued as we passed our sisters' de-commissioning ceremony. Even now, I still feel twinges of guilt as all the noise and smoke did nothing to add to the solemnity of their occasion. What fun!

Zulu was recommissioned in double quick time in 1982 and I was privileged to command a splendid team pulled together in just a few days. After the initial teething troubles caused by years in reserve (and the disposal list) were resolved, the ship just ran better and better. The spirit of the Tribals lived on. - Cdre Sym Taylor, Petersfield, Hants.

● HMS Zulu off Gibraltar, December 1982.



No. 570 48th year

Editorial & Business address:
Leviathan Block,
HMS Nelson, Portsmouth,
Hants, PO1 3HH

Editor: Jim Allaway
Deputy Editor: Anton Hanney
Assistant Editors:
Mike Gray, Helen Craven
Business Manager: Glen Gould

Editorial Lines...

Telephone: 023 9229 4228
Telephone: 023 9272 4163
(Mil 24163)
Telephone: 023 9272 4194
(Mil 24194)
Fax: 023 9283 8845
email: edit@navynews.co.uk

Business Lines...

Switchboard: 023 9282 6040
Subs & Accounts: 023 9282 6040
Distribution: 023 9272 5136
Adv: 023 9272 5062 / 9282 6040
023 9272 4226 / 9275 6951
Fax: 023 9283 0149
email: enquiries@navynews.co.uk
web: www.navynews.co.uk



Pen pal 'via Siberia'

BROADSTAIRS reader K.Taylor (ex RM with three sons and a daughter ex-RN!) is a keen collector of old stamps and correspondence – and so was delighted when an early request for a pen pal was discovered in a local house clearance and passed on to him.

Dated March 8, 1926 and posted from Shanghai "via Siberia route", it was sent by Edward Shute, serving in HMY Assayer (late Scarab) on the China station.

He hopes Miss Phyllis Cordell, of Walthamstow, "will not be offended in my taking this liberty in writing to you" and mentions that "just at present we are having the rainy

season and my word it don't half pour down. It has been like this for this last month, but I see by the papers you have been having a very bad winter at home with plenty of snow."

There is no record of Miss Cordell having replied – but a photograph (right) was found with the letter, so maybe she did!

We can find no record of 'HMY Assayer', but HMS Scarab is listed as a river gunboat of 645 tons, built in 1915 by Wood Skinner of Newcastle and lent to the Burmese Government in 1946-47 before broken up at Singapore in 1948. And what was the 'Siberia route'?



Corsair queries

THE FLEET Air Arm Museum is currently carrying out an in-depth study into the history of its Corsair aircraft serial No KD431. Some details of its Service life remain uncertain and I wonder if any readers can help?

The aircraft was attached to 1835 Sqn and was engaged in training activities prior to embarking in HMS Patroller with the intention of sailing for the East in July 1945.

Any personnel, especially engineering staff, fitters and maintainers who may have any recollections of preparing Corsair aircraft during this period may well hold the key to solving this puzzle.

Also, anyone who was involved with aircraft awaiting disposal at Donibristle in 1946 or who remembers preparing KD431 for its journey to Cranfield may well have vital pieces of information.

Contact me on 01935 842609 or e-mail: davem@fleetairarm.com – D. Morris, Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset.

Trincos traced

I WAS pleased to read the report on HMS Trincomalee (November issue). I first saw HMS Foudroyant – as she was then known – in June, 1945 when I joined her as a boy signalman just after my 17th birthday via my local Sea Cadet Unit 'Bounty Scheme'.

There were 13 others joined that day and we trained together for seven months, starting with four weeks in Foudroyant followed by five weeks at HMS Duke, Malvern and the rest of the time at HMS Scotia, Ayr.

After training we went our different ways and, still being classed Hostilities Only, we were demobbed by the end of 1947.

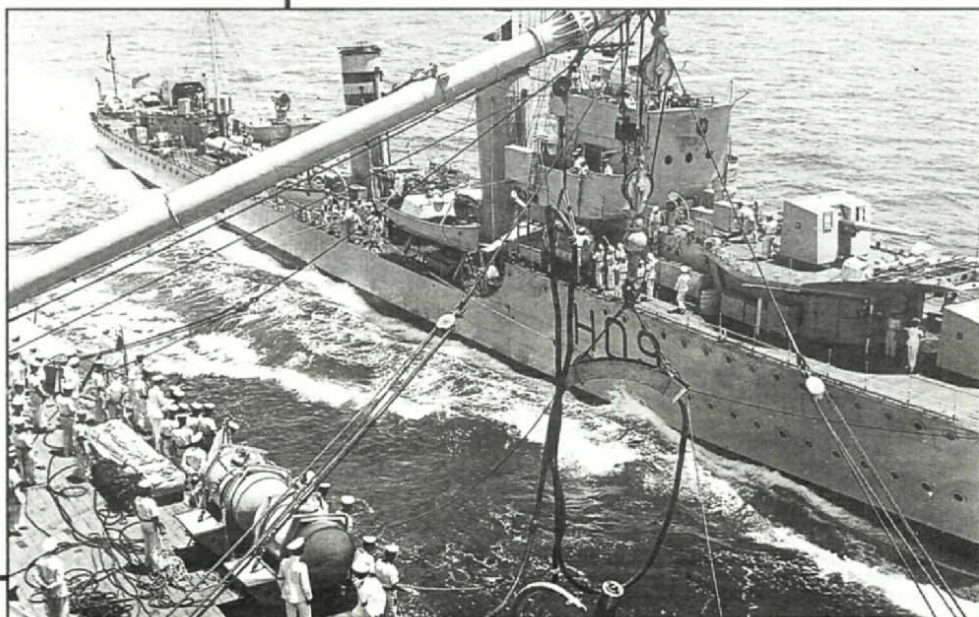
I had kept our class photo with everyone's name and town of origin and in 1988 I traced all but one and we had our first reunion at Portsmouth.

For our 50th anniversary reunion we revisited the Foudroyant at Hartlepool – here's to the lads of 441 class, HMS Scotia, God bless 'em. – R. Finch, Warrington, Cheshire

Earliest RAS?

THIS picture shows HMS Acasta shoving off after oiling from HMS Queen Elizabeth off Alexandria on July 18, 1936.

I was on board the Queen Elizabeth as an ordinary signalman at the time and this was the only time I saw refuelling done this way. Was this the beginning of the present replenishment at sea (RAS) system? – A. C. Bishop, Salisbury.



Last sight of the Prince of Wales

I WAS sorry to hear of the need to cancel the reunion for the crew of the Prince of Wales in Singapore. In December 1941 I joined HMS Express – the ship ordered alongside the Prince of Wales to pick up survivors.

I remember that after the attack the Japanese aircraft reformed and flew overhead in formation. We put out a manilla rope and the crew of the Prince of Wales were ordered to abandon ship as the torpedoes had done their job and she was beginning to list to port.

Most of her crew transferred to the Express by amidship and quarterdeck. As the ships were too far apart to jump, I manned a bearing out spar and some made use of that.

There were lots of hard luck stories, men falling down between the ships' sides. Later, when she had heeled quite a lot, the hole showed where a torpedo had entered and hit an oil tank which was being emptied into the sea. As I looked at that moment, a tiffy pitched up and sat on the ship's side.

He had a gin bottle in his hand in which he had obviously been saving his tot of rum, and he put it to his mouth and drank the lot. He let the bottle out of his hand and used both hands to shove off down the ship's side. Unfortunately, he slid down and into the hole in the side that was discharging oil.

The next order was to let go forward, which was an impossibility as the hawser was bar taut, but we had a fire axe to hand and chopped our way free – if we had used a wire hawser there would have been casualties as the end whipped back inboard.

Our crew of 120 was really dwarfed by survivors and the doctors were fully engaged using the mess tables as best they could. The whole ship smelled of fuel oil – clothes saturated in oil were thrown aside and you were lucky to find a place to sit down.

I saw the Admiral (Admiral Sir Tom Phillips) on board the Prince of Wales on the upper bridge with his Yeoman of Signals who was told to abandon ship. The Admiral then faced aft and saluted as the ship went down.

We made it back to Singapore where we made fast alongside a dockyard godown. The Exeter had arrived on station and her Commander took charge of survivors.

Two rum queues formed and needless to say it was a piece of cake to have your rum from one queue to the other but that was stopped when it was discovered we were survivors from the Express, not the Prince of Wales. – R. Wills, Sale, Cheshire.

Brothers four

DURING the mid 1960s I and my three brothers – in age order, Keith, Geoff, Rodney and James Perkins – were all serving in the Royal Navy.

The two eldest joined in 1959 and I left in 1974, but between 1965-68 we were all serving together.

Ships were HMS Victorious, Bulwark, Hermes, Albion, Eagle, Centaur, Ark Royal, Sheffield (Bellerophon), Whitby, Kent, Lynx and Forth (Defiance), plus Condor, Culdrose, Pembroke, Collingwood.

This may not stand as a record for the war years, but perhaps it does for the 1960s or the post war era in general? I look forward to any challenges. – J. Perkins, Middleton, Manchester.

Old names live on

FIVE of the ships I served in between 1949-72 have successors of the same names. They are Vanguard, Unicorn, Vigilant, Ark Royal and Tyne.

Same names, different types – in my case they were Vanguard the battleship, Unicorn (aircraft carrier), Vigilant (Type 15 frigate), Ark Royal (a rather different carrier than today's) and Tyne (destroyer depot ship).

Can anybody beat that for a record? – K. Miller, Plymouth.



The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

Registered Charity No. 1075015

HISTORY

Children of the Royal Naval Services have been supported for over one hundred years by the charitable funds, originally as orphanages but now

in ways appropriate to present day needs, such as schools, homes, special needs establishments, holidays and in their own homes in times of family crisis.

AIM

The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund

formed from The RN & RM Children's Trust and The RN & RM Children's Home is the premier charity for providing charitable help to children of serving and ex-serving personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, The Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service, the former Women's Royal Naval Service and the reserves of these forces.

Where children are in need, hardship or distress.

The needs of children are paramount and help is provided when not available from family or statutory sources.

HOW HELP IS ORGANISED

The Trustees are mainly serving officers or other naval personnel together with civilian Trustees who bring experience in other fields to the problems encountered.

consideration of every circumstance is therefore given swift and sympathetic attention by people who understand the difficulties of service and seafaring life.

The RN & RM Children's Fund works closely with many charities dedicated to providing help to children. If the type of assistance falls outside the objects of the Fund, then the applicant will be referred to other charities with the object of creating a care package.

Applications can be made at any time. Those seeking assistance can contact the office direct for an application form.

Applications are also received from a number of sources such as the Naval Personnel and Family Service (NPFS), SSAFA/Forces Help, the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT), the British Legion, as well as schools, Local Authorities, Health Visitors and many others.

The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund

311 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw, Portsmouth PO2 8PE

Applications and referrals should be made to:

Mrs. M. A. Bateman or Mrs. L. Smith at the address above or by phone Tel: 023 9263 9534



Helping Hands

Navy keeps youngsters swimming in support

PLYMOUTH'S young swimmers have been given a helping hand by the Royal Navy.

Naval recruiting have presented a cheque for £700 to the Plymouth Leander Swimming Association along with a supply of RN T-shirts showing Leander's motif.

Association members will wear the T-shirts at competitions to promote the RN as a career opportunity and for fitness development.

The Association trains young swimmers from age 5 upwards.

■ The RN and RM were the official sponsors for the St Thomas Age Championships swimming gala in December.

All the winners received RN baseball caps, and RN 'goody bags' went to every entrant.

St Thomas' Swimming Club in Dundee has also received a £500 cheque from the RN.

The club has had links with the Royal Marines at RM Condor for many years.

The Club is one of the largest in Scotland, with over 350 members. It has produced champions and record holders, including Olympic and Commonwealth level.

■ Preferring to give than receive, swimmers from HMS Caledonia swam 20,000 metres in relay to collect £500 for the National Asthma Campaign.

The team finished the swim in 9 hours 9 minutes.

The event was organised by LPT Steve O'Neil who began the challenge with CPO PT Ian Binks. The final two came from the establishment's experienced Pool Lifeguard team.



● Staff at HMS Collingwood dressed up as 'doctors and nurses' checking out the chests of Portsmouth footballers

Picture: Phot section, HMS Collingwood

Naval action for Children in Need

FOOTBALLERS turned out for Children in Need to help staff at HMS Collingwood raise an impressive total of £2,300.

Players from Portsmouth Football Club joined with Collingwood staff dressed up in the day's theme of Doctors and Nurses.

Collingwood's resident magician 'Andy Cadabra', known as PO Yeoman Andy Burns in his day job, toured the naval establishment giving magic shows for cash for the charity appeal.

The Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess held a charity

horseracing evening to find £500 for the grand total.

Gate collections and spare change donations also took place throughout the year.

■ STAFF at HMS Temeraire leapt aboard their static rowing machines to row the 140km distance from Portsmouth to Cherbourg for Children in Need.

In order to add a real challenge to the task, the staff decided to beat the P&O Ferry's crossing time of 5 hours 30 minutes – which they managed by just 45 seconds!

The sponsorship total for the charity appeal was £206.

Unwanted coins turn into charity gold

WHISKY bottles are being filled with unwanted coins at military bases, stations and camps across the country, and even beyond.

Foreign currency from global trips is being pooled for Children in Need at RAF Cosford.

The collection has been running for over a year and has earned £7,000 already.

No coins are wasted – old currency is sold on to coin collectors, and even pub and launderette tokens are sold on for scrap.

Royal Navy photographers trained at RAF Cosford have helped take the collecting out to RN bases and ships.

Community plays on in Scottish rain

THE ROYAL Navy along with 'Scotland against Drugs' sponsored a 5-a-side football competition. The event took place at Shandon Sports Pitch run by the Helensburgh Community Action Committee.

The competition involved almost 60 children from the local community, who played on enthusiastically despite wet weather.

The Committee seeks to bring the Service and civilian communities together by providing youngsters with activities and events to build a positive local spirit.

■ THE 16TH Scout Group in Gosport has gained £231 from the WO and SR Mess in HMS Collingwood, and £150 from the Centurion Association to help re-equip the scout hut and recover from vandalism.

Toys are the best cure

CHILDREN at the Royal Navy's Radford pre-school in Plymouth have given away unwanted toys.

This generosity from the school's 3-5 year olds will provide vital medical equipment and facilities for children being cared for at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth.

The Marc Anthony Memorial Fund will sell the toys to new owners and use the proceeds to buy new equipment for the hospital.

■ SCHOOL children in Plymouth will benefit after Cdre Ric Cheadle, Naval Base Commander Devonport, presented a cheque for £500 to the Mount Wise Children's Trust.

The Trust helps local schools obtain grants to provide opportunities for children to develop community spirit and self-reliance.

Northern care

DURING their return from the Falklands, the ship's company of HMS Dumbarton Castle kept in mind their ship's charity and turned their energies to fundraising – £1,400 for the special baby care unit at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

■ THE SCHIEHALLION ward at Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's hospital received £525.25 after a sponsored beard shave by PO Nobby Clarke and members of HMS Glasgow's ship's company.

Bid for glory

MONEY gained from a Royal Navy charity auction will go towards rebuilding the Dame Hannah Rodgers School in Ivybridge.

The lots up for bid were provided by teams from the Royal Navy charity boat pull. Each team is sponsored and seeks donations from local businesses for the charity auction held after the race.

This year's winners were once again the Devon Fire and Rescue Service. The total yield was £2,000.

Run to help

CHILDHOOD First is seeking marathon runners for this year's London marathon. The charity provides care, education and therapy for damaged children. If you would be interested, contact Childhood First on 020 7928 7388.

Parachutist's death inspires future help

THE LOSS of a son is a traumatic blow for any parents, but the parents of Lt Dave Paton were determined to find a positive way to remember their son's life.

The 'Dave Paton Memorial Award' will be presented annually to a member of the Thunderer Squadron.

The Squadron consists of RN-sponsored engineering students,

and is based at Southampton.

A cash award of £200 will be presented to the graduate who has best promoted adventurous training activity.

This will then enable them to take the parachute training course with the Army at Netheravon – a sport that Lt Paton loved.

Lt Paton himself died in a parachuting accident at a Families Day at HMS Excellent in July 2001.

His parents have also gathered together £1,668 as a thank you to the RN Dependence Fund.

The Fund within two days had given the family financial support to deal with the immediate aftermath of their son's death.

Although this financial help could in no way lessen the loss, it did help deal with some of the other burdens present at this difficult time.

The money provided by the family will go to help a nominated cause from the Royal Naval Special Fund.

The total came from a number of different sources. HMS Excellent contributed £520, half the proceeds of its Families Day but also boosted by donations from staff and stallholders.

The Raiders Parachute Display team put in £500, and the Thunderer Squadron added £98. Another £50 came from the Electronics and Computer Science Department of the University of Southampton.

Footballers play on to honour sailor's memory

A CHARITY football match in honour of Leading Marine Engineer Artificer Darren Barton took place at Waterloooville.

Star players turned out to support the event, including one World Cup winner, Alan Ball, one Olympic medallist, Roger Black, and several Portsmouth Football Club members.

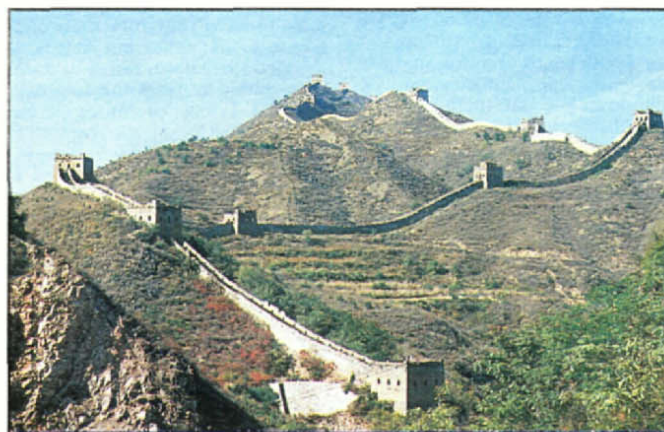
The match was followed by an auction, with lots including 1966 World Cup memorabilia.

The whole event produced

£2,000 from gate fees and the charity auction for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust, Leukaemia Busters and Cancer Research.

A £1,000 cheque was also handed over from the HMS Sultan summer show for the Anthony Nolan trust.

The event was attended by Cdre Peter Kidner, Commodore HMS Sultan, and members of the Marine Engineer Artificer Qualifying Course which Darren had completed before falling ill.



● The dramatic scenery of the Great Wall of China trekked on behalf of Multiple Sclerosis

Picture: CPOW(PHOT) Crissie Proudley

Best foot forward

TWO WRENS conquered China's Great Wall for the sake of The Solent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Portsmouth.

CPOW (PHOT) Crissie Proudley from COMNA and POWAEM(M) Wendy Lagden from HMS Sultan set out on

the 80km Charity Challenge Trek along sections of the 2,500km wall in Northern China.

The two describe the trek as hard work, but every step, of which there were thousands, was worth the £1,706.50 for the centre.

ANTARCTIC or ARCTIC Bone China Mugs

By the end of the 15th Century, adventurers and merchants suspected the Earth was not round and were starting to discover lands afar. In 1795 the UK Hydrographic Office was formed to develop much needed charts for the areas the Royal Navy sailed in.

For over 200 years, the UK Hydrographic Office has built up a collection of over three million documents relating to the sea. Amongst these archives are the charts featured on these exceptional bone china mugs.

Elegantly decorated with either Polic Arctic or Polos Antarctic maps.

To make these mugs unique, each features either a Polar Bear or Penguin which is relevant to their destination. Both are finished with a real gold trim and fine detail.

£6.50

Each inc P&P UK price

£8.00

Each inc P&P O/S price

Items not shown actual size.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

To order these Bone China Mugs please phone us on

023 9282 6040

with your credit card details, or fill out the coupon on page 4. Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on a UK bank for the amount shown:

The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH



SOMETIMES IT'S YOUR

DUTY TO CANCEL

YOUR HOLIDAY.

IT'S OURS TO MAKE SURE YOU

GET YOUR MONEY BACK.

In the Armed Forces, you have to be prepared to cancel your holiday at a moment's notice. But you'll find some travel insurers are less than sympathetic.

Affinitas' Travel Insurance pays out for the insured cost of your holiday if your leave gets cancelled. We understand the way you live, so we won't penalise you for doing your duty – even if you're deployed to Afghanistan at short notice as part of a UN peacekeeping mission. And unlike other specialist insurers, we'll carry on covering you after you've left the Services.

With extremely competitive policies for Europe, Worldwide

and Winter Sports, you only pay for what you need. You can choose Single Trip, or Annual Travel Insurance which means you're always covered for last minute breaks. If you're driving on holiday in Europe, we've got competitive Breakdown cover too. And once you become an Affinitas member, you also benefit from up to 40% discounts on airport parking and hotels.

We can help you whether you're serving or retired. We can even call you straight back if you phone us from abroad.

So next time you're planning a holiday, call us.
Before duty calls you.

0800 316 1 317
+44 1206 393 777
www.affinitas.com


affinitas
looking out for you



People in the News



Long-lost mace is returned

A FORMER Royal Marines drum major has been reunited with his lost special mace almost 40 years after he loaned it to a Boy Scout troop.

Former bandsman Jack Kennelly (80) joined the Royal Marines as a 14-year-old drummer boy in 1936, and served for 28 years with the RM Commandos, including Atlantic convoys and spells in HMS Devonshire and HMS Newcastle.

While in the latter, Jack was asked to lead the ship's band, and crew mates created a mace from a boat's oar, complete with silver mount decorated marines cap badges and decorative knotwork.

Jack kept the mace when the band dispersed, and lent it to his nephew David Allcock in the 1960s, for use in the 3rd Allerton Scouts' drum and bugle band.

When David died in a climbing accident in the Swiss Alps in 1978,

Jack lost contact with the Scouts, but his memories were revived when retired RSM Jack attended the ceremonies on Plymouth Hoe at which the Duke of Edinburgh presented new colours to the Royal Marines Commandos.

Working on the recollection that the mace was with "South Liverpool scouts", the hunt was on, with Jack's son Malcolm helping out.

Staff at the London HQ of the Scout Association put the family on to District Commissioner Brenda Hope in Allerton, and with the help of Scout leaders past and present, the mace was discovered forgotten in a cupboard in the Woolton village Scout hall.

Group Scout leader Ann Pope restored the mace to its former glory, and the only hitch came on the day of the handing back, when Jack was "confined to barracks" by a cold, leaving son Malcolm and grandson Ian to travel from North Wales to Liverpool, where the 3rd Allerton Scouts' newest recruit, John Siddall, proudly handed the mace back to the Kennelly family.

In return, the Kennellys left the Scouts with the Mace Trophy, to be awarded each year to the member best upholding the Scout Movement traditions.



● A young Frank Skelton.

Centenarian dies months after big day

A FORMER sailor who retired from the Royal Navy in 1920 died just months after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Frank Skelton joined the Navy on April 3, 1917, at the age of 15, and served as a cartridge loader for the 6in guns in the armed merchant cruiser HMS Moldavia.

He travelled with her to West Africa and North America, surviving her sinking by U-boat off Beachy Head in May 1918.

He was landed at Dover by HMS Scourge, and after four days shipwreck leave at Haslar Camp, he again volunteered for sea and joined AMC HMS Kildonan Castle until Christmas 1918.

His last ship was the battle-cruiser HMS Tiger, and he saw out the remainder of his service in her – one highlight being in July 1919 when, with HMS Renown, Tiger escorted airship R34 part of the way across the North Atlantic.

The centenary celebrations were subdued, as Frank had broken his hip. He died on November 30 at West Lodge Nursing Home, Nottingham.

● THE well-being of the officers and ship's company of HMS Newcastle is undoubtedly in good hands, especially when it comes to calorific intake. As can be seen, the chefs on board have experienced a cumulative total of 134 years service – possibly a record for this type of ship, unless anyone knows better. Pictured from the left are LCH Hockenhall, LCH McLean, LCH Fuller, LCH Newbold, LCH Dean, LCH Morton, CH Butcher and POCA Milner.

Pilot back from South America

A SEARCH and Rescue pilot who serves at HMS Gannet has returned from an exchange with the Argentine Navy which saw him operate helicopters in the Andes.

Lt Andy Patterson had to take an intensive ten-day Spanish language course before joining Naval Air Station Espora at Bahia Blanca, 450 miles south of Buenos Aires.

He carried out familiarisation flying with No 2 Squadron Sikorsky H3s – very similar to his own Sea King Mk VI – then went with his fellow pilots to Bariloche in the Patagonian Andes for Operation Nevada, a

period of mountain flying in snow and ice which is used to prepare the Argentines for their deployment to Antarctica.

Mountain flying in the harsh conditions, often on peaks up to 7,000ft high, was followed by a session with other squadrons at Espora, where Andy also met the head of Argentine Naval Aviation, Contraalmirante Carlos Cal, in Puerto Belgrano.

An Argentinean pilot, Lt Cdr Gerardo Bonamico, came to Scotland on exchange earlier in the summer under the UK/Argentine Military Contacts Programme.



● Stephen (left) and Paul Holland at RNAS Yeovilton.

Twins train together

TWO new recruits at RN air station Yeovilton are causing problems to instructors – they are identical twins.

Stephen and Paul Holland (19), from Merseyside, are undertaking specialist training on Sea King Mk IV helicopters as air engineering mechanics on 848 Naval Air

Squadron. When fully qualified they can expect to be drafted to one of the Navy's front-line Sea King squadrons.

The brothers were both British tae kwon do champions for four years – Stephen at bantamweight and Paul at middleweight.

Dad's in charge

ROYAL Navy Reservist Sarah Brokenshire was under the spotlight when she completed her two-week RNR New Entry training course at HMS Raleigh.

The Passing Out Parade for 19-year-old Sarah was inspected by her dad – Commodore Laurie Brokenshire is the Commanding Officer of the training establishment.

Sarah is studying biology at Exeter University, and joined the RNR on a fast track scheme to become an officer. She hopes to join the Navy on a full-time basis.

NAVAL Airman Christopher Oliver came top of the pile after initial training at HMS Raleigh.

Christopher (20), from Coventry, received the Owen Cup at his Passing Out Parade as the recruit who achieved the highest individual marks in the final exam.

A PROUD father who went to HMS Raleigh to watch his son on the Passing Out Parade also had a chance to renew an old friendship.

Martyn Chandler – who left Raleigh in 1978 – served in HMS Intrepid in the Falklands War as an MEM alongside Kevin Nicholls.

And Kevin went on to become a petty officer at Raleigh, and was training officer for Martyn's eldest son Russell.



● Commodore Laurie Brokenshire with his daughter Sarah.

Big win for Jack Frost

Jack Frost struck it lucky – just in time for Christmas.

PO Frost, an instructor at the School of Flight Deck Operations at RN air station Culdrose, shared top prize in the RN Sports Lottery, bagging £1,354.36.

He has already splashed out on a mountain bike for himself, and promised to spend the rest on his wife and four children to ensure they had a Christmas "with all the trimmings".

Top apprentice

DAVID McLaughlin, an electronics engineer who helps maintain the Royal Navy's torpedo systems at the Defence Munitions depot at Beith, has won the coveted title of MOD Apprentice of the Year.

The 30-year-old hopes to add to his skills by gaining university qualifications.

Penfriends

Don't want to start the New Year lonely? Find new friends to share Valentines with! It's so easy! Simply follow the instructions below...

...to find new friends all over the world!

HOW TO ADVERTISE: Simply write your message (£10 for up to 10 words. Each extra word £1 to a maximum of 15 words). Send your cheque or PO payable to 'Navy News' to: 'Penfriends', Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Replies to your box number will be forwarded on daily. (Payment by credit card/switch please use coupon on page 4).

HOW TO REPLY: Any person who writes to an advertiser must use a stamped envelope bearing the advertiser's box number clearly in the bottom left hand corner. The letter should then be enclosed in a second envelope and addressed as above. We cannot guarantee that unstamped letters will be redirected.

Please note... you must be over 18 to advertise in this column

Name: Age:
Address:
Tel. No.:

LADY PENFRIENDS wanted by single middle aged New Forest male. Box Jan 1

ABLE SEAMAN wanted for penfriend. Interests friendship & outings. Reply please. Box Jan 2

PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENT Lady own home, no ties, likes music, gardening, history, ex RN/RN family. WLTm correspond mature honest male. Box Jan 3

SLIM BLONDE FEMALE. Seeks naval male for fun and friendship / possibly meet. Box Jan 4

SINGLE FEMALE, 35, enjoys outdoor sports. Seeks similar male penfriend. Box Jan 5

STAFF NURSE, 40 years female (widowed). Seeks genuine naval penpal / friendship. Westcountry. Box Jan 6

SUSAN, 43, enjoys music, travel, reading, gardening. Seeking genuine penpals. Box Jan 7

SEPARATED SAILOR (30's). Seeks caring lady penpal. GSOH, likes theatre, reading. Box Jan 8

GENUINE 43 LADY. Seeks Officer / Marine for correspondence. Box Jan 9

QARNNS OFFICER, early 40's. Seeks friendship with fun male. ALA. Box Jan 10

PERSONAL

MATURE FEMALE (not old). Seeks mature male (not decomposing) in naval uniform. He will need very good sense of humour, wit, intelligence, good looks (not difficult), for correspondence / companionship. Box Jan 11

-PEN PALS-

LINK LINE is a British Registered Charity committed to bringing people together as pen friends. Get to know a companion or partner, like yourself, before you meet. Just exchange letters until you feel comfortable with your new friend.

Details: SAE; Linkline (NN), Box 7358, LONDON N1 5QF.

CONTACT MAG for adults only, choose yourself a new friend from over 900 photos. APPROVAL copy from. MATCHMAKER (A.10), Chorley, PR7 4BS. Or ring 01257 - 480155 (24 hours)

NOTICE

All advertisements submitted for entry into the Navy News Penfriend Column are subjected to copy approval. Navy News reserves the right to make any amendments which it considers necessary or to edit copy which is in excess of the number of words paid for. Please note: We can take no responsibility for the nature or source of the replies received. You must be over 18 to advertise in this column.



At least one of us is still alive!

JOHN Belton-Perkin would just like to say that he, at least, is still alive and kicking – despite a comment in last month's *ScreenScene*.

John wrote in after reading, in a review of the film *The Man Who Never Was*, that "...virtually the entire cast of the movie is now as dead as the enigmatic 'Major Martin'".

John was a 20-year-old Telegraphist serving on board HMS Scythian, attached to the Second Submarine Squadron at Portland with the depot ship HMS Maidstone when the boat was used in filming.

"Quite a few of the crew were used as extras, and I actually appear in the film three times," said John, who now lives in Cornwall.

"And just as a matter of interest, I was also serving in HMS Aeneas when she was used for the James Bond film *You Only Live Twice*, filmed off Gibraltar in 1966."

The *Man Who Never Was* tells of the true story of Operation Mincemeat, when the corpse of the fictitious Major Martin was dropped in the sea off Spain in 1943 by HMS Seraph. The body carried fake secret papers, confusing the Germans over the invasion of Sicily, and thereby probably saving thousands of lives of those who went ashore.

Beira Bucket brings back happy memories



MEMORIES have come flooding back in recent months for former sailors who served in HMS Diamond.

They have been watching with interest the progress of the new class of Type 45 destroyers, which bear some of the names of the eight Daring-class sisters, which were Daring, Dainty, Duchess, Decoy, Defender, Delight, Diana and Diamond.

A group from HMS Diamond also met up to recall the challenge of the Beira Bucket, a sporting trophy for ships on Beira patrol which they could hang from the yard-arm.

The Beira patrol prevented oil from getting to what was then Rhodesia, on the East coast of Africa.

To carry on the tradition of the Beira Bucket, a smaller version was created which is presented each year to a different member of the HMS Diamond Association in memory of their time on the destroyer, and to keep the memory alive of former colleagues who have died.

Members of the Association are looking forward to welcoming new members from the latest HMS Diamond – and remind those sailors who talk of ships needing 'hard' names that there is nothing harder in nature than a diamond.



● CPO Paul Philips.

Paul is a hero – again

PAUL Philips has won a commendation for saving the life of a young rating caught beneath an aircraft lift in HMS Invincible.

CPO Philips, from Portsmouth, showed "great courage, exceptional presence of mind and exemplary system knowledge in the face of great adversity," according to CINCFLEET Admiral Sir Alan West.

This is the second time Paul has won such a commendation – his previous one was for his efforts in fighting an engine room fire in HMS Alderney in 1988.

Modestly, Paul said on both occasions his colleagues would have reacted in the same way – it was just that he was the man on the spot.

CPO Philips is completing training at HMS Sultan in preparation for his new draft as the Marine Engineer Officer in Archer-class patrol boat HMS Exploit, based in Cardiff.



● Members of the HMS Bulwark Association turned out in force for the launch of the latest warship to bear the name. With them at Barrow-in-Furness is the first Commanding Officer of the new ship, Capt Keith Winstanley (centre).

Students sample life in the Navy

STUDENTS from land-locked Burton College have been seeing whether a career at sea is to their taste.

As part of their Uniformed Services course, the Midlands students stayed on board HMS Bristol in Portsmouth Harbour, visited HMS Excellent and the RN Submarine Museum, took a harbour tour, and undertook the Navy's swimming test at HMS Temeraire.

The course is aimed at students wishing to join either the emergency services or the Armed Forces.

New chief for Star and Garter

A NEW Chief Executive has been appointed by the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen and Women.

Lynn McDougall took over on January 1, following the retirement of Ian Lashbrooke.

Lynn has a wide range of experience, including spells at BP, with the NHS and in the City of London.

Brothers meet again after more than 60 years apart

FOUR brothers were reunited as a family group for the first time in more than 60 years thanks to SSAFA Forces Help.

Robert Syson (86), who served in the Navy from 1934 to 1967, met Ronald (82) for the first time since the beginning of the war after SSAFA arranged for the four to meet in Leeds.

Ronald served with the Durham Light Infantry, the Black Watch and the Royal

Pioneer Corps, brother George (84), of Blackpool, joined the Royal Signals and served with the Chindits in Burma, and John (80) was with the Durham Light Infantry and the Home Guard.

During his time in the Senior Service, Robert – who retired as a petty officer – saw service in the Arctic, the Atlantic, the Far East, the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean, including time in submarines.

Birthday goes with a bang



● CPO Davey Coats (left) at the gun controls with LOM Mac McCormick

DAVEY Coats' 45th birthday went with a bang – the oldest member of the ship's company was allowed to fire its gun.

CPO Coats, who normally looks after HMS Marlborough's external communications equipment, was allowed the honour of pressing the button by the frigate's Commanding Officer, Capt Potts.

Davey, from Edinburgh, sent off the first two rounds during a naval gunfire support exercise in the Gulf – and he couldn't go far wrong with expert help at his side in gun controller LOM Mac McCormick.

The frigate was part of the Exercise Argonaut task group to the Middle East.

The COOPERATIVE BANK

Readers of Navy News

At this **loan** rate you could afford to **splash out**

- any amount from £1,000 to £15,000
- funds transferred directly to your bank account - with the option of same day transfer*
- no arrangement fees or security required
- Repayment Protection Insurance is available

Fixed APR	Loan value		7 years		5 years		3 years		1 year	
			with Protection	without Protection	with Protection	without Protection	with Protection	without Protection	with Protection	without Protection
8.4% APR	£12,500	Monthly	258.15	195.62	314.70	254.24	457.15	392.51	1,188.19	1,088.50
		Total	21,683.96	16,432.28	18,881.57	15,254.50	16,457.38	14,130.31	14,258.17	13,061.91
9.4% APR	£10,000	Monthly	212.51	161.04	257.12	207.73	370.55	318.15	954.90	874.78
		Total	17,850.11	13,526.81	15,427.28	12,463.65	13,339.49	11,453.31	11,458.73	10,497.34
9.7% APR	£5,000	Monthly	107.22	81.25	129.44	104.58	186.09	159.77	478.32	438.19
		Total	9,006.40	6,825.09	7,766.23	6,274.24	6,696.89	5,751.70	5,739.78	5,258.21
12.8% APR	£3,000	Monthly	70.13	53.15	82.84	66.92	116.29	99.84	291.32	266.88
		Total	5,891.18	4,464.09	4,969.81	4,015.25	4,186.10	3,594.23	3,495.83	3,202.53

Apply now for an instant decision. Just phone free on:

0800 591 682

and quote reference no:

791/503

Typical examples: If you wish to borrow £5,000 over 3 years, the monthly repayment, with Repayment Protection, will be £186.09, at an APR of 9.7%. Total repayment over the loan term: £6,825.09. If you wish to borrow £5,000 over 3 years, the monthly repayment, without Repayment Protection, will be £159.77, at an APR of 9.7%. Total repayment over the loan term: £5,751.70. Amounts shown may vary by a few pence.

This advertisement replaces any previous advertisement for Direct Personal Loans from The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. Written quotations are available on request. Credit facilities are subject to status and not available to non UK residents, anyone under 21 or over 70 years of age. The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. reserves the right to decline any loan application but may, in certain circumstances and at its discretion, offer a loan at an alternative rate to those advertised. Rates correct as at 10/09/2001. Typical APR is the APR at which the majority of loans by number, arising from this advertisement, are expected to be made. The Bank may record telephone calls between you and the Bank for security and/or training purposes. *Once we've received your signed agreement form, same day transfer is via CHAPS, before 3pm, at a cost of £20.

Registered Office: The Co-operative Bank p.l.c., 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP, England. Registered Number 990937. Website: www.co-operativebank.co.uk

Our lowest loan rate ever

8.4% APR

Our most popular loan rate

9.7% APR

A recent survey has suggested that the public knows very little about the Royal Navy indeed, and as a result see it as the 'least relevant of the Armed Forces', 'old-fashioned' and low-tech'. So the Navy is taking a long, hard look at the way it presents itself in public and how it can do the job better.

In an interview with *Navy News*, the Director of Corporate Communications (Navy) **Commodore Richard Leaman** explained how he, in conjunction with the Director of Naval Recruiting, **Commodore Julian Williams**, is working towards a sea change in the way the Navy delivers its public relations effort, and how he is looking to everybody in the Service to play their part in learning to speak –

'The results of this study are significant, and will maybe come as a surprise to some. We clearly have a communication challenge ahead of us if we are to overcome the misconceptions held by the British public.

"The 'silent service' approach will no longer do, and we need to be better at understanding the type of language we should use, the channels of communication we employ, the people we are trying to reach and what we are trying to tell them – in brief, we need to improve the methods we use to reach the public, and also the way we describe and talk about what we do.

"In March 2002 the Navy Board will be considering a new strategy for how we communicate – both internally and externally – with the aim of delivering a more consistent and positive representation of the Royal Navy.

"It will be a complete across-the-board plan for moving us from where we are now, to a new position where the public and our own people fully understand what the Navy is up to,

A whole different language

and thus feel that they are shareholders and therefore completely behind it. This whole process started about two and a half years ago when we came across a public opinion survey which indicated we might have a public awareness problem. So we set up a study with the Director of Naval Recruiting to try and find where the shortfalls were, and to start doing something about them.

"We began the most recent survey a year ago – and the same

results came out. The public perception was that we weren't very capable, and that we are 'old-fashioned', 'low-tech' and generally 'not relevant'. We all know this isn't true – as a Service, we are overall very capable, forward-looking, hi-tech and hugely relevant to today's world environment.

"The public also thinks the Royal Marines are part of the Army, and our aircraft belong to the RAF... So there is obviously a communications break-



● **Clothes maketh the man – but you'd never know from this picture that there are Royal Navy men inside the firefighting gear, at work during last year's Liverpool firemen's strike**

down here. It does of course depend on what questions you ask in these polls though, and it's not all doom and gloom. If you say 'Do you trust the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force to go out and do a good job, and win?' you will get 90 per cent giving the thumbs up.

"But if you say 'What's the Navy's part in this?' most people haven't a clue. Do the public understand what they're spending £6 billion a year for? No, they don't – and so there's an absolute need to raise the public's awareness of what we do and why we do it.

"Over the past few weeks there has been a huge increase in interest in what the Navy's doing – but no greater understanding, as yet. Let me give you an example. On a breakfast TV programme recently they were covering the Royal Marines going in first to Kabul, the newsreader said they were the 'best units in the British Army' – and behind her was a picture of the Paras!

'We have to overcome this lack of knowledge and understanding somehow. The way we present ourselves is too fragmented at the moment. When asked to think about the Navy, the public has a mental picture of a single ship coming from somewhere, going somewhere else, but not for any real reason. The public has no idea how we connect with the land, that we have a collective capability ranging from Royal Marines to Tomahawks and Harriers that can go anywhere in the world, unhindered, and directly affect operations. It's this coherent 'all-in-one package' we need to present better.

"And we're not just trying to improve the way we describe the Navy – we're also working on the methods we use to communicate

with the public, too. As part of our drive to improve this, the Navy has just invested in £100,000 worth of video cameras and satellite transmission equipment, so that when something happens in the front line, the ships which have the kit can send the footage back quickly so that it's in the BBC or ITV news room that same night.

"Much of the national TV coverage we have enjoyed

Navy does, and how we do it, in a popular but nonetheless serious format.

"And there's a lot more being done elsewhere as well, particularly for our ships and submarines, to ensure they are better equipped to act as the Navy's ambassadors and communicators, wherever they go.

"So over the next few weeks and months we are going to see a gradual shift in the way we

'There has been a huge increase in interest in what the Navy's doing – but no greater understanding'

recently has been sent back to the UK this way – it's already making a big difference to our profile.

"We are also going to look very closely at the design of our uniforms, because so often people don't know who we work for – wearing my white shirt I've often been mistaken as an airline pilot!

"And I'm not talking about massive changes being required to make a difference. For example, one of the things the C-in-C Fleet has recently authorised is putting the words 'Royal Navy' on our new foul weather jackets, so at least it's clear on camera who we belong to.

"We've also bought a large number of stick-on RN logos, so when people are wearing their combat gear, fighting fires or doing rescue work or whatever, the public and the TV cameras will recognise them as belonging to the Navy and not, say, the Army.

"I'm also working hard with a national television company to set up a drama series about life on a Royal Navy frigate which should show to about nine million people a week what the

express ourselves to all the people we come into contact with. And this is not about 'spin' – that's the last thing we want to be doing and there's no place for it in the Royal Navy. Besides which, we have such a good story to tell. Our aim is simply to express ourselves more clearly, and as a more coherent package of land, sea and air capabilities all rolled into one – it's as simple as that.

"This whole process of change will take some time, but in the end it will be worth the effort. We definitely need public support for what we do. We must also ensure that the environment is right for the recruiters, and all of us need to feel good about the organisation we work for and see our efforts recognised.

"This isn't a 'soft' issue, as some say – it's crucial to our future as a Service, and I hope this interview will serve as a first step towards the changes necessary to improve the public's perception of the Service we all hold so close to our hearts."

□ See Newsview, p 20

OFFICIAL MoD SCHEME (DCI GEN 273)

INJURED?

Compensation?

You need ToPaS!

ToPaS provides a 'no expense' accident compensation recovery legal service to MoD personnel nationwide.

For decades your caring professional team has recovered millions of pounds annually for victims of every type of accident.

We handle minor to catastrophic injuries.

CONTACT THE SOLICITORS WHO SPECIALISE IN PERSONAL INJURY ACCIDENT CLAIMS

0870 998 9000

E-mail ToPaS@beteshfox.co.uk

www.ToPaS.org.uk

www.beteshfox.co.uk

Fax 0870 998 9100

BETESH FOX & CO SOLICITORS

Members of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel and the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

★ This scheme is available for claims against third parties only

MY CAR ROLLED OFF THE END OF A 'TRANSPORT' VESSEL

What other motor insurance company would believe you?

Most 'high street' insurers don't really understand what you do for a living. So in the event of a claim there may be instances where you might not be covered.

NAAFI Financial knows exactly what you do for a living, and our motor insurance is designed especially for people like you. You'll find our cover automatically includes benefits most insurers would charge you extra for or fail to cover, making our motor insurance a lot cheaper than you think. So if the unthinkable happened to your car, you can be assured your claim will be sorted out quickly and efficiently.

Call us now for a free no-obligation quote. We are now open 7 days a week. Or pop into your local NAAFI Financial branch.

Save more money with our multi-policy discounts

Kit + car insurance	2 or more cars
10% discount on your car insurance	10% discount on your main car insurance

For your free quote call us now, quoting reference: N14

00800 76 76 77 77 (free from the UK & Germany)

+44 1603 205 209 (from rest of the world)

www.naafi-financial.com



NOBODY KNOWS YOU BETTER



Moneywise

**FORCES,
EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL
WOUNDS? DISEASES? INJURIES?
CAUSED BY SERVICE?**

also

ALL PERSONAL INJURIES CLAIMS

You may be entitled to

COMPENSATION

CALL THE CLAIMS SPECIALISTS!!!

**CALL FREEPHONE
0500 22 20 22 NOW!!!**

THORN COMPENSATION SERVICES LTD • MARSH HOUSE
92A MARSHLAND ROAD • MOORENDS • DONCASTER DN8 4SZ

**Employment Problems / Redress
by Complaint?**

Need Help and Legal Advice?

Contact:-

0845 601 1260
www.forceslaw.com

**FORCES
LAW**

The Forces Legal Network

For a free 30 minute
initial diagnostic
interview with
Lawyers experienced
in the Armed Forces
who speak **your**
language

Remember – you have a choice

RECENT claims and counter-claims appearing in advertisements and editorials in the Forces press recently may give the impression that there are

only two or three companies offering a specialist insurance service to members of the Armed Forces.

While it is true that there are not

many companies with the expertise necessary to look after the unique lifestyle of Servicemen and women, there are more than three, according to SIIAP, the Services

Insurance and Investment Advisory Panel.

Companies which can demonstrate that they have the necessary knowledge and product range to deal with Service personnel are entitled to join SIIAP.

SIIAP is a collection of authorised insurance and independent investment advisers, recognised by the Ministry of Defence and operating on behalf of Service personnel.

Members of SIIAP operate to a strict code of practice, and are all specialists within their own area of expertise.

A full list of members is available from your Unit Pay Office, Regimental Administration Office or from OC PMS.

In the UK, you can also obtain details from your local HIVE.

More information is also available in Defence Council Instructions, see DCI JS131.

Alternatively, check out the SIIAP website at www.siiap.org.

And remember – you do have a choice.

**Some companies offer 10% off
their motor insurance**

(one car only) - if you insure two cars with them!

To really save money try TF Insurance Services

Our mystery shopping reveals that we can save an average of 30% when we compare the total cost for the two cars!
We can't guarantee to be 30% cheaper every time (sometimes we may save you even more!)
To find out how much we can save you call The Free Number below, or email us at:
SaveEvenMoreMoney@tfinsuranceservices.co.uk
Or you can visit our website at: www.tfinsuranceservices.co.uk

The Free Number 0800 389 1798

T F

INSURANCE SERVICES

(Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 9-4)

For training purposes your call
may be recorded

Member of General Insurance Standards Council

SEPARATING OR DIVORCE PENSION ADVICE

Specialist legal advice to Naval Personnel for:

CONVEYANCING
WILLS, PROBATE & TRUST
MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY
CHILD CARE
PERSONAL INJURY
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE
OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
MENTAL HEALTH
CRIME



For more details call one of our offices, or
email via our website
www.coffinmew.co.uk

**COFFIN
MEW &
CLOVER**

FREE INITIAL ADVICE IN MANY CASES

Call 01329 825617 or 023 8033 4661

FREE MILITARY KIT,
PERSONAL ACCIDENT
OR DEATH POLICIES **WITH OUR
MOTOR INSURANCE**



Exclusive rates for HM Forces in the U.K., Northern Ireland & overseas.

New Platinum Insurance.

Only available to H.M. Forces. Covers Car Breakdown in U.K. & Europe,
Travel Insurance, Kit, Road Rage, Lost Keys & Personal Accident.
All for less than 40p per day

Special schemes available for military kit, home contents,
buildings & travel insurance.

Personal loans for any purpose
£2000 - £25,000 *

* Written quotations available on request subject to status.
Loans only available to Service personnel over 25 years of age.

0800 074 9402

Open 365 days a year (8am to 10pm weekdays & 9am - 9pm weekends)

Forces Direct Insurance Service Ltd (Credit Brokers),
The Manor House, 10 St. Margarets Green, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2BS

Tel: (01473) 211951 Fax: (01473) 213898

E-mail: sales@forcesdirect.co.uk

www.forcesdirect.co.uk

ATTENTION!







Listen Up! To help provide you and your family with a better future in retirement, the Armed Forces have teamed up with Scottish Widows, one of the most respected names in financial services, to offer you a preferential Stakeholder Pension – the Armed Forces Stakeholder Pension.

It's simple to set up. Contributions start from as little as £20. And just about everybody is eligible. **It's your future.**

Call the Armed Forces Helpline on **0845 608 0376** or **+44 131 655 6600** quoting reference 2594730101. Or email armedforces@scottishwidows.co.uk







New squadron offers up experience of high flying



THE ROYAL Navy is offering free flying lessons to help boost recruitment of pilots and observers of the future.

The RN has formed a new Fleet Air Arm squadron to boost recruitment of the pilots and observers who will fly the jet fighters and state-of-the-art helicopters on the future aircraft carriers.

727 Naval Air Squadron, which commissioned at Plymouth City Airport on December 6, will offer free opportunities for young men and women to get flying experience and be assessed as potential aircrew.

The Minister for Armed Forces, Adam Ingram, said: "The formation of this special naval squadron is a valuable and significant investment in the future."

"The two big carriers we are building, and the exciting new aircraft that will operate from them, including the Merlin helicopter and Joint Strike Fighter, will require many more aircrew for the Royal Navy, which only selects the best."

"727 Naval Air Squadron will enable young people to get flying experience, without commitment, and also provide them with the opportunity to meet the Fleet Air Arm and Royal Navy."

"They will learn about the high standards set and the opportunities offered to those who choose a career in Navy flying."

One of the guests invited to the ceremony was Cdr Maurice Tibbey, the Commanding Officer of 727 Naval Air Squadron from 1957-58, and Lt Geoffrey Harrington, who served with 727 NAS when it first formed during World War II.

The new squadron's first Commanding Officer is Lt Cdr Nicholas Lee, a Navy pilot and Qualified Flying Instructor.

727 NAS is based at the Navy's Flying Training Flight, which grades cadets from Britannia Royal Naval College as potential aircrew and provides air experience for other Naval personnel.

It will now operate a scheme allowing young people aged between 16 and 23 to apply, through Armed Forces Careers Offices, for a Special Flying Award – the scheme has been tested over the past year.

This will enable them to attend a two-week course in the summer at Plymouth – 12 hours of flying instruction, as well as visits to ships and Naval establishments in the region.

Another section of the scheme enables young men and women to go gliding at an RN air station for two weeks, with the prospect of going solo if they are good enough.

Candidates will have to attend an interview, and undergo aptitude tests at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire. Around 30 places will be available on each part of the scheme.

The Grob aircraft used by 727 NAS and much of the flying instruction will be provided under contract by civilian company VT Aerospace, whose personnel will have honorary membership of the new squadron.

Among the other roles carried out by 727 NAS will be training air crew in the basics of navigation, providing air experience for Air Traffic Control officers and the grading of naval pilots – the core business of the unit.

727 NAS first formed in May 1943 at HMS Cormorant II in Gibraltar, equipped with six Defiant target tug aircraft.

It later acquired a further six Defiants, two Hurricanes and two Swordfish.

After more than a year of training the gunners on Allied battleships, and undertaking air-to-air

exercises, the squadron moved to Malta, where it disbanded in November 1944.

It reformed at Gosport in April 1946 to give air experience to junior RN and RM officers, using

Tiger Moths, Seafires, Harvards and a Firefly, but the squadron disbanded again in 1950.

A further recommissioning took place at Brawdy as the Dartmouth Cadet Air Training Squadron,

using Sea Balliols, Sea Vampires and a Sea Prince, with the brief addition of two Dragonfly helicopters, but Britannia Squadron took over the role in 1960, when 727 was again disbanded.



JUST GO DIRECT.

Dealing Direct with Land Rover Military Sales gets you the best deals faster.

Land Rover Military Sales is dedicated to providing a totally professional approach for Services personnel, whether in the UK or posted overseas.

- Special Tax Paid and Tax Free Prices for Navy, Army and RAF personnel
- All makes part exchange facility
- Tailored finance packages to suit all budgets
- Special insurance rates for UK and BFG
- All prices include our full delivery pack: UK and Continental headlights, rubber floor mats, warning triangle, first aid kit and full tank of fuel
- Highly trained Sales Executives

The latest Discovery and Freelander models are available now. So don't beat around the bush, come direct to the Military Sales specialists.

For Northern England, Scotland and Northern Ireland contact:
Wallace Martin

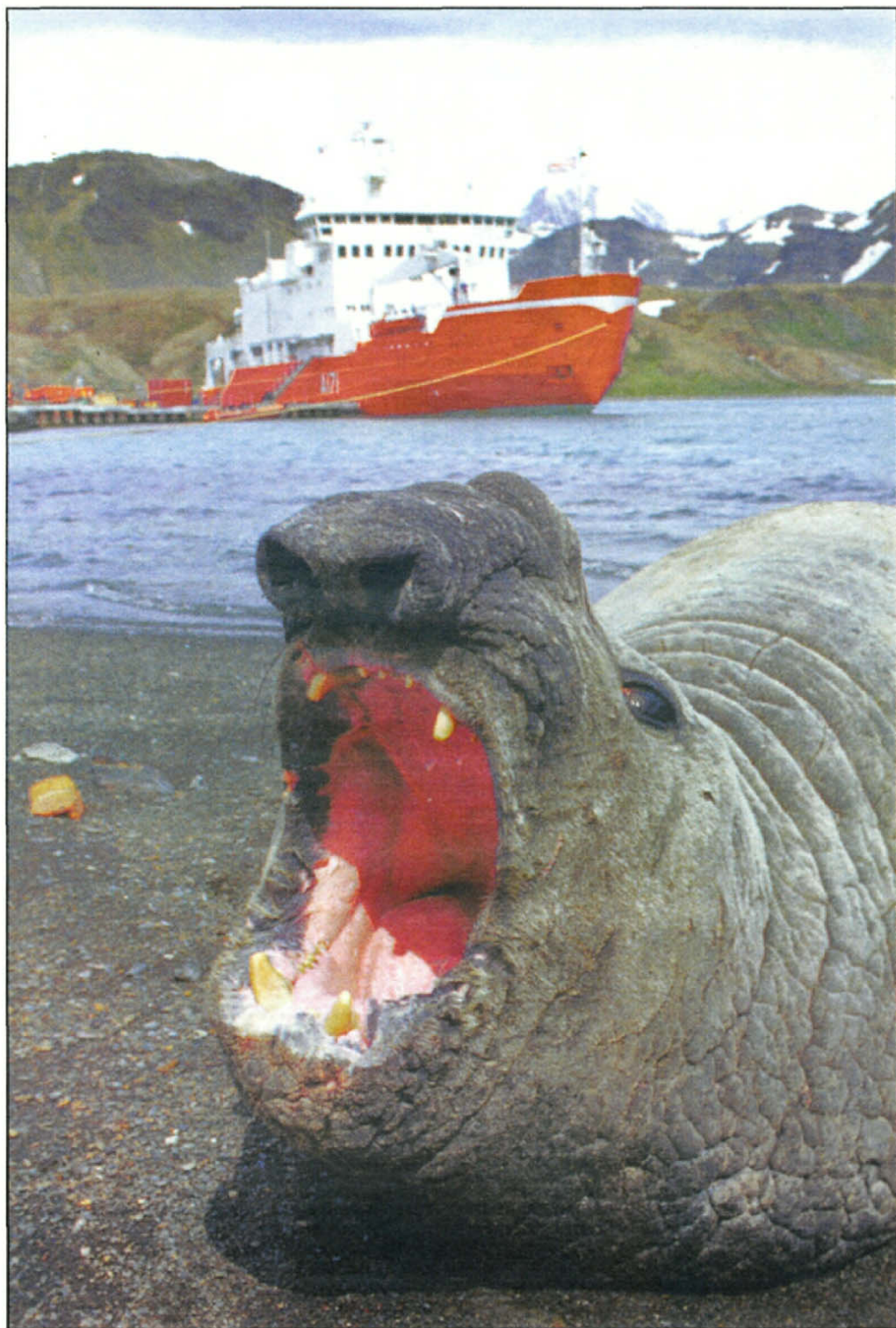
HEAD OFFICE
Land Rover Military Sales
FREEPOST ANG30232
Peterborough, PE1 5BR
Tel 0800 656 9048 Fax 01733 342300
EMAIL: tdms@landrover.com

For Central, Southern England & Wales contact:
Paul Bawden

MILITARY SALES



THE LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE



● An elephant seal at South Georgia greets HMS Endurance

Picture: PO(PHOT) Chris Brick

Viking raiders welcome competition winners

THE TWO winners of the Navy News 'vehicle naming competition' had a chance to experience life with the Royal Marines at Poole and Bovington in early December.

John Speight and Eric Willock both suggested the name 'Viking' for the Royal Marines All Terrain Vehicle (Protected).

The name 'Viking' proved popular with the Corps reflecting the vehicle's Scandinavian origins, and evoking the original amphibious raiders.

This unique vehicle is produced by Haglund of Sweden. It provides protected mobility during expeditionary operations, and is more powerful than the BV206 that it replaces.

The Vikings 'Trial Team', led by Major 'Jez' Hermer RM, gave the two winners a glimpse of RM life at their Dorset bases.

John Speight brought along his father, Dennis, for the day's adventures, and Eric Willock decided to enlist his son, Andrew.



● The newly-named Viking Marines all-terrain vehicle and (inset) the Navy News competition winners

MWS forms at new home Collingwood

THE MARITIME Warfare School (MWS) will form at its new home, HMS Collingwood, on 15 January.

The School will provide a new venue for naval shoreside training. This will integrate the School of Maritime Operations (SMOPS) with HMS Collingwood and Excellent.

This move follows a Training Review and Estate Rationalisation Programme, announced by the Second Sea Lord in July 2001.

The new training areas and accommodation will require major building work at the Fareham site.

Cdre Philip Wilcocks, Commodore of Collingwood, will be in charge supported by Capt Joe Gass, Captain Warfare Training and CO Dryad, and Capt Joe Kidd as Chief of Staff.

Portsmouth finish for Tall Ships in 2002

THE CUTTY Sark Tall Ships Race will finish in Portsmouth harbour in August 2002.

It is 25 years since the race was last welcomed to Portsmouth harbour, in the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The ships will be berthed around Portsmouth naval base, Gunwharf Quays and Royal Clarence Yard in Gosport.

Organisers are looking for volunteers to serve as liaison officers: contact 023 9275 3145.

Red Plum takes a break at Christmas isle

HMS ENDURANCE is now completing the first of her five work periods around the Antarctic, and was planning to spend Christmas alongside at South Georgia.

The island of South Georgia is a photographer's paradise. The island is home to hordes of wildlife, thriving and surviving on the sub-Antarctic continent.

In addition to the one photographed, South Georgia has a population of 400,000 elephant seals.

Over 15 million penguins of all varieties and 15 million seabirds call the island their home. The massive elephant seals, weighing up to 4

ton each, knock shoulders with over 2 million fur seals.

In amongst the teeming wildlife, this abandoned whaling station at Grytviken has only the one human couple in permanent residence.

These two run a small museum dedicated to the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Grytviken is also the site of Shackleton's grave.

The British Antarctic Survey runs a small base on the island with 10 scientists.

The island itself is only 120 miles

by 30 miles in size, with ice-clad mountains over 9,000 feet in height.

Endurance is carrying out survey work supporting British Antarctic Survey scientists and producing aerial photography.

The ship has completed the first three of her surveys on the east coast, covering 95 square miles.

Existing charts are in part based on 1920s data, with depth of water still marked in fathoms.

World War II tragedy not to be forgotten

DECEMBER 1941 was a black period in World War II. The December attacks on Pearl Harbour, Prince of Wales and Repulse are all well-documented.

But efforts are underway that the story of HMS Neptune should not be forgotten.

Historian Nixie Taverner is the daughter of Neptune's commanding officer, Captain Rory O'Connor.

She has already written a history of her father's previous command, HMS Hood, and is now working on a history of the Neptune.

The loss of the Neptune was one of the worst naval disasters in the second World War. A total of 764 men lost their lives when the cruiser strayed into a minefield in the Mediterranean off Tripoli.

HMS Neptune was part of a cruiser raiding squadron whose task was to intercept and destroy German and Italian convoy ships.

The three cruisers of Force K, Neptune, Aurora, and Penelope, set out from Malta protected by the destroyers, Kandahar, Lance, Lively and Havock.

In the early hours of 19 December, Neptune was rocked by an underwater explosion, and as Aurora turned, she too hit a mine.

The convoy had encountered an uncharted minefield.

Aurora managed to escape the minefield without further damage. But the Neptune drifted into two

more mines in rapid succession.

The decision was then taken to send in the Kandahar to help. She too became a victim of the mines, still afloat but taking in water.

The escorting ships attempted to reach the Neptune, but the mines proved too dangerous.

The Neptune continued to drift, before being fatally struck by a fourth explosion at 0403.

This was the final blow for the Neptune; the ship slowly keeled over and sank.

As the dawn broke, and the increasing visibility endangered the remaining group, it reluctantly had to return to Malta, leaving the

crippled Kandahar and any survivors from the Neptune.

Only one man survived the loss of the Neptune, Able Seaman John Walton. He was one of a group clustered around a raft. Gradually one by one the others were lost to the surrounding sea, until only AB Walton and one other remained.

They were rescued by an Italian torpedo boat, but only AB Walton survived. He spent the next 18 months in various Prisoner-of-War camps before returning to the UK.

Anyone able to help with this project should contact Mrs Taverner on 020 8949 3031.

■ See also p24.

Merlin learns latest trick

A Merlin helicopter of 824 Naval Air Squadron has conducted a first winching exercise by the aircraft with a submarine, HMS Splendid.

824 NAS is the Merlin training squadron, based at RNAS Culdrose.

The Squadron carried out a series of exercises, including transfers to and from a fleet tender.

Picture: Phot section, RNAS Culdrose



Ships head home, while others keep up the crucial work



● A Sea Harrier FA2 flies past RFA Oakleaf and HMS Monmouth on the Maritime Demonstration Day during Exercise Saif Sareea

Picture: LA(PHOT) Brad Bradbury

Royal Navy's vital role in fight against terrorism

● HMS Marlborough is the first Type 23 to 'raft up' to RFA Diligence in the open waters of the northern Red Sea for transfer of 220 tonnes of diesel fuel

EXERCISE Saif Sareea tasking took on a whole new dimension after the events of September 11 in America. Many ships have now returned home after this significant period, but work continues in the Middle East for the Royal Navy.

Two of the three nuclear submarines closely involved in Operation Veritas, HMS Superb and HMS Triumph returned to their homes in mid-December, proudly flying their Jolly Rogers to show a successful operational patrol.

This practice was begun in World War I by Max Horton as a riposte to the Admiralty's early branding of submarines as 'pirates'.

It later became common practice during World War II, but remains an entirely unofficial act.

The Jolly Rogers flown are emblazoned with symbols that show the achievements of the boats during patrol.

Triumph's flag showed two crossed Tomahawks to mark her opening salvo in the war against terrorism.

Superb flew a Jolly Roger with a dagger to represent force protection, a bee because she is known as 'Super B', and two communication flashes to show her contribution in that area.

Adam Ingram, Armed Forces Minister, welcomed HMS Triumph home to Devonport.

The Minister said that Triumph had "played a vital part in the international coalition's effort against terrorism, and Britain is justifiably proud of the dedication and commitment she has displayed."

He commended the ship's com-

pany for their handling of the difficult tasking over 2001. He then included the families whose lives have also been disrupted in his thanks, and said: "We should never forget those that stay at home."

Finally after Christmas wishes, he added: "the country's thanks for a job very well done."

The Minister had previously visited HMS Nottingham at Portsmouth after her return from Middle East operations the week before, where he took the opportunity to meet the families of the ship's company. He also visited Naval family support workers, and listened to the issues that concern families during times of conflict.

HMS Chatham, Northumberland and Marlborough also returned to their respective homes in December.

HMS Chatham is the flagship of NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean (STANAVFORMED). Initially on routine operations, the force deployed to the eastern Mediterranean following the attacks of September 11.

Chatham spearheaded NATO's Operation Direct Endeavour, and returns to the same operation in

the eastern Mediterranean in the early part of 2002.

Saif Sareea was the centrepiece of HMS Marlborough's three-month deployment, with visits to Italy, Oman and India in the trip.

As she returned from India to Italy, the Marlborough called on RFA Diligence for help for a 'thirsty Type 23'. The two ships 'rafted up' some 300 miles south of the Suez Canal to transfer 220 tonnes of diesel fuel.

Capt Kehoe, commanding officer of Diligence, revealed that this was the first time that she had 'rafted up' with a Type 23 in such open waters.

Diligence's usual partner in this operations is a mine countermeasures (MCM) vessel, in her role as MCM support ship.

The MCM Hunt-class ships, HMS Cattistock and HMS Quorn, along with Sandown HMS Walney and HMS Inverness, are also now home from providing the MCM contribution to Saif Sareea in the Middle East.

These four minewarfare ships with RFA Diligence exercised with the Royal Saudi Navy in the Persian Gulf before the five week

journey home.

HMS Roebuck made it home to Plymouth at the end of November after playing a crucial role in the exercise, collecting hydrographic, meteorological and environmental data for the amphibious landings by the Royal Marines.

HMS Northumberland had handed over to HMS Kent, who continues to patrol the waters of the Gulf tracking down sanction-busters attempting to smuggle oil out of Iraq. Kent's latest catch - her ninth - involved a high-speed chase to find the biggest haul yet.

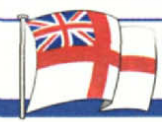
In the on-going war against terrorism, 26 warships and support units stand in readiness in the Middle East.

The units involved include HM ships Illustrious, Fearless, Kent, Southampton and Cornwall supported by RFAs Brambleleaf, Oakleaf, Fort George, Fort Rosalie, Sir Percivale, Sir Tristram and Diligence.

Air assets are available from five Naval Air Squadrons including NAS 820 in Fort George, and 845 and 847 in Illustrious. There are also elements of four Royal Marine units, particularly 40 Cdo.



● HM ships Beagle and Kent in the Gulf prepare to carry out a replenishment at sea exercise



At Your Service

Navy News on tape

Navy News is available free of charge on tape from Portsmouth Area Talking News for those with difficulty reading normal type. For more details, contact 023 9269 0851 and leave a message on the answerphone with a contact telephone number. No special equipment is required to play the tapes, which are standard 90-minute cassettes.

HMS FIDELITY

Writer/broadcaster seeks information from anyone who knew this 'Q' ship: ex-officers, crew, relatives. Also anyone who can shed light on life and career of Captain Langlais and his Wren officer. All information very welcome - documents, correspondence, reminiscence. Please contact:
Edward Marriot,
1 Goldsmith Avenue,
London W3 6HR.
Tel: 020 8993 6537
email: edmarriot@aol.com

Channel 4

wants to hear from Falklands War veterans who were united with new babies (born during the Falklands War) at Portsmouth docks after their triumphant return - for a series on the British Home Front 1982.
Call Kate Werran
or Charlie Williams
on 020 8743 2040

Attention Devonport Fieldgunners & Supporters Memberships NOW DUE!!!

Memberships available annually on 1st January covering up to 31st December
Contact: Ernie (Scouse Garnham) on 01752 228070 (Answerphone)
£15 Each Member; £750 Senior Citizens; No Joint Membership Fee
Preferred method of payment is by Direct Debit / Standing Order
Cheques made payable to 'Devonport Field Gun Association', and forwarded to Ernie at 77 Embankment Road, Prince Rock, Plymouth PL4 9HX
- YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED -

WILLIAM CHARLES BODDY

Ex-CPO, RN and Royal Malaysian Navy recently passed away.

Served from age 14 in 1932 as boy Sailor continuing to serve in the RN for 35 Years died 15th October 2001 aged 83. Royal Sovereign WWII.

His Family would like to give Special Thanks to

'The Boys' at HMS GANGES for their very special and sincere support in the last few years of his life, and also following his death.

And also the Naval Careers Office and Naval Museum in Portsmouth for their kind assistance which enabled us to organise a special floral wreath in the form of the Naval Crown positioned above a Ship's Plaque.

ENSIGN TAILORING

Naval Uniform Specialists

First Floor
Barham Block
HMS Nelson
Mil. 24008
PSTN. 023 9272 4008

Opening Times: 9.30am - 2.30pm Mon-Thurs
9.30am - 12.00 noon Fridays
Free Ship visits on request - Ask for details

"We work round you"

Alterations to Rank

Officers Gold

Lacing

Court Mounting

Medal Mounting

and Ribbons

Royal Marines

Specialist

Naval Mess

Undress

Frock Coats and

Aiguillettes Fitted

Badge Service

The Association of Royal Navy Officers

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

ARNO is both an officers charity and a membership association which is open to serving and retired commissioned officers of the RN, RM, QARNNS, WRNS, and their Reserves. Formed in 1925, ARNO's primary purpose is to assist officers and their dependants in need with grants and bursaries from the proceeds of its assets, which exceed £3 million.

Today ARNO's 9,300 members are offered both financial and other advantages, the former very comfortably exceeding the annual subscription (£10 per annum or £150 for Life)

Tel: 020 7402 5231

Fax: 020 7402 5533

e-mail: ARNO@eurossurf.com

www.eurossurf.com/ARNO

For membership application form, please complete the following:

TO: LT CDR I M P COOMBS RN, ARNO, 70 PORCHESTER Tce, LONDON W2 3TP
Please send me details and a membership application form:

- Grants to members in need and bursaries for children
- Trade discounts including:
 - Insurance & Assurance
 - Automobile Association
 - Mortgage and Legal
 - Travel & Accommodation
 - Private Health Insurance
 - Jewellery & China
 - Dining Out
- Annual Year Book with much useful and interesting information
- A list of members names and addresses (subject to availability on CD ROM)
- Free financial, legal & property advice
- Free or reduced cost medical consultations
- Re-Training Grants
- Regional Social Functions (subsidised)
- Group Holidays abroad at favourable rates
- Mail Redirection
- Home Exchange "Bank"
- Mastercard
- Used Uniform Sales Facility
- Use of The Naval Club in Mayfair



Reunions

February

RM Buglers Branch reunion weekend at HMS Nelson, February 8-9. Applications are invited in writing to: WO1 Bugler A.D. Bridges RM, The Corps Drum Major, HQ Band Service Royal Marines, Eastney Block, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Please enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope.

March

RN Communications Association AGM and reunion, March 9, Astor Hotel, Plymouth. Contact Carl Beeson, 8A Sea View Terrace, Lipson, Plymouth PL4 8RL, tel: 01752 253746 or slarp@lipson.eurobell.co.uk

Survival/Safety Equipment Branch reunion, Weston-super-Mare, March 9. Serving or ex-branch members welcome. Contact the Survival Equipment Group, HMS Sultan, Military Rd, Gosport PO12 3BY, tel: 023 9254 2904.

HMS Aurora Association 1937-46 reunion, Home Club, Portsmouth, March 13. Contact Stan Fleet, 01403 252061, Harry Jones, 01536 713426, or Derrick Denyer, 01843 823540.

HMS Heythrop 1941-42: Remembrance service to mark the 60th anniversary of her sinking takes place at Heythrop Church, Oxon, March 20. Any surviving ship's company interested in attending should contact Bob Parfitt on 01494 882420.

HMS Nuthatch Association reunion at Charnock Hotel, Skegness, March 30 to April 2. Details from Harry Haskell, 7, Ellesfield Drive, West Parley, Ferndown BH22 8QN, tel: 01202 890017.

April

Loch Class Frigates Association (including Bays) hold their AGM/reunion at King Charles Hotel in Gillingham in April. Contact Edward Freathy, Elmbank, Marlow Rd, Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5NL, tel: 01628 523711, email: EdwardFreathy@aol.com

HMS Mohawk 1938-41 Survivors reunion to be held in Birmingham in April. Contact Ray Bromley on 023 8024 3175.

HMS Protector reunion at the Trecane Hotel, Babbacombe, Torquay, from April 12-15. All ex-Protectors welcome. Tel Bill Bartlett on 01202 480767 or Harry Pinkerton on 01492 874685, or www.hmsprotector.com

HMS Ruler/885 Sqdn FAA reunion at Royal Beach Hotel, Portsmouth, April 12-15. Wives welcome. Details: John Robson, 028 9079 6538, or Ted Restall, 0117 932 7074.

HMS Indefatigable reunion, Home Club, Portsmouth, April 12-14. All old Indefatigable welcome, any commission, any department. Contact Jack Hibberd, 23, Canterbury Ave, Southampton SO19 1EB with SAE please.

HMS Ramillies Association reunion, Chesterfield Hotel, Chesterfield, April 15-19. Details: D. Marks, 3, Kendal Ave, Thornton, Cleeveleys FY5 2LY, tel: 01253 826300.

HMS Vengeance Association reunion at Nottingham on April 19-20. More details from D. (Lew) Lewis on 01283 223034.

HMS Warrior 1946-58 reunion, April 19-21, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. All ex-Warriors, wives/partners and dependants welcome. Contact John Carr, 91, Westley Rd, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7UW, tel: 0121 624 4964, email: jcar@warrior57.fsnet.co.uk

HMS Collingwood Association reunion, Cumberland Carlton Hotel, Scarborough from April 19-22. Details from Mike Crowe, 7, Heath Rd, Lake, Sandown, IOW PO36 8PG.

HMS London 1947-49 Assn reunion in Portsmouth, April 20-21. Former crew members from this commission not in touch, contact John Parker, 13, Bromyard Cres, Portsmouth PO6 3SP, tel: 023 9237 7539.

HMS Middleton (L74) Association reunion, April 26-27, RNA Club, Leamington Spa. Details: Mike Alston, 6, Belmont Park Rd, Maidenhead SL6 6HT, tel: 01628 629655.

HMS Wren, all commissions, all ranks welcomed to reunion, Trecane Hotel, Babbacombe, Torquay, April 26-29. Details from A. Steadman, 6, Glebelands, Benfleet,

Essex SS7 4LT, tel: 01268 751762.

RNA No. 10 Area reunion, Floral Hall, Southport, April 26-28. Contact C. Hutton, 44 Railway Rd, Urmston, Manchester M41 0XW, tel: 0161 748 6681 or email: Rna10area@aol.com

HMS Plymouth: All members of the crew are invited to a reunion at Birkenhead on April 27. The ship is now cared for by the Warship Preservation Trust; those wishing to attend should contact the Senior Project Manager, HMS Plymouth, on 0151 650 1573.

May

HMS Ambuscade 1982: Officers and Ratings: a 20th anniversary Falklands reunion is being planned for mid-2002. Call Ray Taylor (ex-LSTD) on 020 8907 8717 or email colleran@lineone.net with contact details, and any others you know.

HMS Tenby Association (J34 and F65) reunion May 3-6 at the Trecane Hotel, Torquay. Details from Ken Jones on 01752 406326, or email kjoness1502@aol.com

HMS Cavalier Association reunion May 3-6 at the Quality Royal Hotel, Hull. Details: David Thompson, 18, Grace Rd, Worle, Weston-super-Mare BS22 7DT, tel: 01934 520216, email tiffy@resting.screaming.net

Navy News Online carries updated reports and background material, as well as a selection of articles from this edition of the paper. There is also a gallery of photographs, some of which have not been published in the paper. Check the website at

www.navynews.co.uk

Calling Old Shipmates

Seeking Pat/Pam Devlin: Will anyone knowing the whereabouts of this former Wren contact Margaret (aka Peggy) Johnson, formerly of HMS Nightjar at Inskip Camp re urgent information. Write to 116, Headroomgate Road, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire FY8 3BG, or tel: 01253 729813.

HMS Oberon (S09): Seeking old crew members 1963-67 interested in a reunion; dates encompass the refit in RG(C) to SM3 then to SM7 and sailing back home. Skippers were Lt Cdr Gibson, relieved by Lt Cdr Cookson. Date to be arranged, possibly in 12-18 months time. Contact Derek Lawbury, 12 Oxshott Court, Sutton Place, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1PH, tel: 01424 217136 or email: jungfigh@lineone.net

STD Dave Learoyd, Benbow 22's May 25, 1981: HMS Raleigh, Pembroke, Kent, Collingwood, 801 NAS, 845 NAS, Heron, Seeking Dave Galway, 845, 846 SQD Yeovilton, Pip Piper, HMS Heron 83-84, possibly joined Ark Royal 85 also Lt Tony Pringal, former AWI 801 NAS. Also seeks anyone he served with; write to 236, Harbord Rd, Brookvale, Sydney, Australia 2100, email: dlearoyd@intercast.com.au

HMS Boxer: Greg Poole seeks POME(M) Growler Groves, on the Boxer for the Orient 92 trip, and then the Field Gun crew 94. Contact Greg at 56, Balmoral Rd, Northmead, NSW, 2152, Australia or email: thepoole@acay.com.au

Gerry (Pedlar) Palmer marries this year and hopes a former shipmate might have a photo of him in uniform to show his future wife. He served in HMS Illustrious 52-54, Eagle 56-58 and Victorious 58-60. Also seeking best friend Patrick Stanford. Contact Gerry on 01427 628392.

HMS Astute 1963-66: Mick Brockelsby seeks Charlie Mears and Keith Mariner. They missed each other by one day at the submarine reunion in October. Contact Mick at 46, Hebdon Moor Way, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9QW, tel: 01522 929339.

Ex-Wren Heather Campbell (1983-89) seeks anyone who remembers or served

Clearance Divers: The Golden Jubilee of the RN Clearance Diving Branch will be celebrated in Portsmouth over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Events include a 'stag' reunion at the Home Club on May 3, a dinner dance in St Barbara's, HMS Excellent, followed by refreshments in the Whaley Club on May 5. All serving and ex-serving officers and ratings of the Clearance Diving Branch are welcome. Details from Les Sharpe on 023 9265 5711 or email diversjubilee@hotmail.com

No 6 Squad, Junior Marines 1960-62: Squad reunion on May 4 at the Home Club, Portsmouth. Contact Geoff Haywood on 01202 888194 for details.

HMS Consort Association reunion from May 10-12. Details from T. (Bud) Flanagan on 0151 425 2744

HMS Adamant Association reunion from May 10-13. Contact A.E. Walker on 01977 700839

HMS Orion Association reunions, May 10-11 (Blackpool) and September 12-13 (Plymouth). Contact Kay West, 28, Stretton Rd, Great Glen, Leicester LE8 9GN, tel: 0116 259 2171.

HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Assn AGM and reunion at Eastbourne, May 10-12. Contact CPO Warwick Franklin at the Armed

Forces Careers Office, Mount Wise, Plymouth on 01752 501787.

HMS Kipling (G91) reunion, Ashburn Hotel, Fordingbridge, on May 11. Contact Norman Roake, 33, Wickens Meadow, Rye Lane, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks TN14 5JB, tel: 01959 524586.

Annual RN Memorial (Graspan) Parade at the RN National Memorial, The Mall, London, on May 12 at noon; muster on Horseguards at 1130hrs. Passes required. Contact Jim Ellard, 20, Hawfield Bank, Orpington BR6 7TA.

Airborne Early Warning: The CO of 849 NAS invites all serving and ex-serving AEW aircrew to celebrate 50 years of AEW in the Fleet, at RNAS Culdrose, May 17-19. Contact Lt David White on 01326 557229 or email: aew849reunion@aol.com; website: <http://aew849reunion.info>

HMS Gloucester (1939-41): Reunion from 17th to 19th May at Royal Fleet Club, Devonport. Details: Noel Haines, 60a Forest Rd, Huncote LE9 3BG, tel: 0116 286 2805.

HMS Swiftsure Assn, cruiser and submarine: buffet lunch reunion, May 18, Sea Cadet TS Swiftsure, Aldershot. Details: David George, Mullion, Shipton Green, Itchenor, Chichester PO20 7BZ, tel: 01243 512998, email: davidandgeorge@lineone.net

HMS Opportune Association 1942-55 reunion from May 20-23 at the Stretton Hotel, Blackpool. Contact W. Len Phillips, 8, Redgate, The Pippins, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4TQ, tel: 01606 79880.

HMS Faulknor Association reunion from May 21-23 at the Home Club, Portsmouth. Details: C Heuer, 89, Bowers Rd, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1BH, tel: 01268 756141.

HMS Constance 1945-51 Association reunion in Coventry, May 31 to June 2. Details: Ernie Balderson on 01529 413410.

Ken Wheelwright of HMS Solebay 49-50, members of a special project with 845 Helo Sqn 53-55, LAS party, HMS Belfast 50-52 and Peter Lees of HMS Vernow 1958.

Contact Peter at 25, Palmer Rd, Elizabeth Park, St Australia, 5113 or email his daughter in law: marion.webb@defence.gov.au

Seeking RO (OMC) Debbie Gove (nee Cook): trained together at HMS Mercury, and then served at Northwood HQ. She since served in HMS Beaver. Home town was Birkenhead/Wirral. Contact Claire Steele, Flat 3, 35, Rutland Drive, Harrogate HG1 2NS, tel: 01423 817527.

Seeking George McDonald, who served in HMS Alacrity 77-78; LS gunner at the time, a Gordie who married a girl from Plymouth in 1978 - she worked in Guiz shipyard.

Contact Trevor 'Paddy' Phillips, 10, Crewe Park Rd, Glenavy, Cramlin, N. Ireland, tel: 028 9445 4508, mob: 07074 454510, or email: mistynette56@netscapeonline.co.uk

HMS Whitby 72-74: Bernie Lawrence, now living in the US, seeks Michael John Bennett and Greg Osborne; Greg last known on the Isle of Wight. Contact Bernie at 2, Crestview, Las Flores, California 92688, USA or email berniep0206@home.com or call UK tel: 01453 826299 (Mr Batt).

HMS Amazon: John Cropper served in Amazon from 1987-89. He seeks anyone who served in her to arrange a reunion. Contact him via email: jcropper@orange.net tel: 07870 594342 or write to 58, Saltburn Rd, Wallasey, Cheshire.

HMS/M Conqueror building/first commission crews, all ranks/rates. Also all S/M Communicators past/present contact ex-CRS Roy Dixon on 01329 287617 or email: dadiditexon@bushinternets.com re reunion.

RO(T) Gary (Paddy) Wilsdon is waiting to hear from anyone who was in Benbow 42, Oct 77 or HMS Juno 78-81 especially the Comms branch. He would also like to hear from those who served in FOSNNI from May to October 1981. Contact him at 4, Bexley Rd, Bangor, County Down BT19 7TS, or email: gary.wilsdon@virgin.net

HMS Sheffield 1976-79: AB then LS (Sonar) Jonah Jones, joined for the West Indies run in '76, till '79. Contact Keith Jones, 92, Severalls Ave, Chesham HP5 3EL, or email: krj_4@hotmail.com

Ajax connections sought

THE TOWN of Ajax in Ontario, Canada, in 1942 took the name of Ajax to commemorate the role of HMS Ajax, along with HMS Exeter and HMS Achilles, in the Battle of the River Plate.

Many of the streets in the town are named after crew members, and it is the policy of the town to place a brass plaque to each named street, along with the planting of a maple tree, when either a crewman or a direct relation visits the town.

However, there are a number of Ajax crewmen that were killed in the war, and no known relative of whom have visited the town. Therefore, while they have streets named after them, they do not have a maple tree or a brass plaque to commemorate them.

It is the intention of the town council to honour the following seven by planting trees and erecting plaques, either in the spring or autumn of this year:

George W. Hills, Boy First Class, died October 12, 1940; John H.B. Parsons, Leading Seaman, died June 2, 1940; Rex V. Plowman, Ordinary Seaman, died May 28, 1941; Samuel W. Preston, Ordinary Seaman, died October 12, 1940; Frederick Reed, Corporal RM, died October 12, 1940; William E. Simpson, SBPO, died June 13, 1940; George H.K. Strathy, S/Lt RCNVR, died October 12, 1940.

If anyone knows of a relative of one of the above-mentioned men, please contact Ken Jones, chairman of the HMS Ajax and River Plate Veterans Association, at 1, Coppergate, Hempstead, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3QN, tel 01634 364078.

At your Service entries

- Notices for this page should be brief, clearly written or typed and addressed to - The Editor, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth. PO1 3HH or email: edit@navynews.co.uk. If you are sending your notice in via email, please include your full address and telephone number.
- Reunions appear in date order, and requests to place an entry in a particular edition cannot be guaranteed.
- Please send in Reunions at least three months (preferably four) before the month of the event.
- There may be a delay before items appear, due to the volume of requests.
- Entries are free to non-commercial organisations. Items pertaining to commercial work, books and publications for profit can only appear as paid-for advertising.
- The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse publication of submitted notices.
- Space does not allow us to accept more than one free insert. Any subsequent notice will have to be paid for at advertising rates.


Drafty

WEAs: gapping of billets still a fact of life

GENERAL SERVICE ENGINEERING

WEAs:

A year ago D2 Drafty's Corner referred to the continuing WEA shortages and hoped for improvements in 2002.

Despite the best efforts of the WEA Working Group, formed to counter these shortages, improvements are no closer and gapping of WEA billets both at sea and ashore will be a fact of life for the foreseeable future.

However, the fundamental aspects of the drafting system, such as Minimum Time Ashore (MTA) and notice for drafts, will be maintained in order to protect the individual.

A positive outcome from the WEA Working Group is a FOSF sponsored initiative called the WE Team Working trial.

It aims to broaden training for maintainers in certain billets, which should increase ships' resilience to gaps and reduce the current need for FOSF to redeploy personnel to higher priority ships or seek short notice reliefs.

Details of the trial are promulgated in SFTM 89/01.

In addition to the significant 2OE offer for WEAs in summer 2001, 2OE has been offered to targeted Senior Rate WEM(R)s for employment in WEA jobs, thus helping to alleviate gapping in key skill areas.

This scheme is about to be extended to Senior Rate WEM(O)s for certain key jobs.

Meanwhile your continuing close liaison with the WEA Drafting Desk and DCMLOs is as vital as ever in ensuring that drafts are to the best advantage of both you and the Service.

MEAs:

Marine Engineering Branch Development (MEBD) introduced the 'common' or 'SQ'less' MEA and the concept of defining job requirement by rate/adqual, rather than rate/SQ.

While the number of MEBD CPOMEAs is increasing as the pre-MEBD population falls through natural wastage and promotion, the ML/EL ratio of the latter is significantly out-of-step with traditional Scheme of Complement requirements.

The resulting imbalance in Actual Time Ashore (ATA) is being actively addressed, but within Operational Capability constraints.

By applying MEBD principles, where possible, when filling sea billets, it is hoped to narrow the ATA gap and create a single plot in which MLs, ELs and SQ'less MEAs are broadly interchangeable.

This has already been achieved at Charge Chief level.

MEMs:

Lt Cdr "Wiggy" Bennett, ex-MEO of HMS MANCHESTER, has taken over the reins of MEM drafting.

Whilst the Specialisation in this plot is nearly in balance overall, the recruiting generated 'black hole' has now reached Leading Hand level, compounding the already fragile POMEM situation.

In addition to the normal manpower regulators, including 2OE which is being extended to Leading



"We use them to fill gaps in the ranks when we 'Fall In to Leave Harbour'!"

Hands this year, targeted extensions for LMEMs in their final year of service and offers of re-entry for POMEMs are being used to ameliorate the current shortages.

In the longer term, the problem should reduce as junior MEMs gain experience and qualifications.

Thus there is no time like the present for promotion, and all of those within the Specialisation are urged to take advantage of the situation to qualify for the higher rate and improve their professional status with the accompanying financial reward.

The shortage of small ship recommended full MEMOC individuals remains a concern.

Divisional Officers are reminded that a NO recommend should be justified in their remarks on the C230.

GENERAL:

More generally, Charge Chief extraction procedures have been standardised for MEAs and WEAs with a much-reduced lead time between selection and course.

In future, selection boards will sit in September for the following Training Year and, from April 2002, individuals will be promoted on completion of course.

Transition to this system has

been achieved by using the November 2001 boards to top up the 2002-2003 requirement without compromising eligibility for 2003-2004 selection; indeed many contenders will have an extra report for the board to consider.

The website mentioned in the last D2 Drafty's Corner is widely used, contains The Guide to Drafting and Compendium of Appointments for Warrant Officers and is easily accessible under 'Drafty Desks'.

A further useful document in the 2SL Website is 'Jobs List', which is accessible under NAVSEC/DNM and contains every job in the RN, both for officers and ratings.

Because of the advent of this IT based information, the hard copy six monthly list of shore and LFS billets, previously distributed to Commanding Officers by D2, will no longer be issued.

Finally, the Engineering Branch Management and Drafting roadshow delivered by the Engineering Branch Manager and Drafting Commander, has delivered ten presentations during 2001 and is about to start the 2002 tour.

Details of dates and venues can be obtained from the DCMLOs or Drafty.

Situations vacant

A CPOAEA(R) is needed from this month at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire, for 24 months; job details for the FAA RWR post are available on request.

Another 24-month shore job needs an NA(AH) at RNAS Yeovilton as soon as possible. The post requires a Ship's Diver, as it involves working with the Dunker emergency underwater escape unit.

Two POMEMs are required for April in sea-going billets based in Belfast. The jobs require Hull ADQUALs, and are expected to last nine months.

There is also an ongoing requirement for Scale B MEM1s for Portsmouth-based Hunt-class MCMVs, Single Role Minehunters and Island-class Fishery Protection Vessels. Render Form C240 if interested.

Opportunities also exist for Able Rate Chefs and Stewards to transfer to the Submarine Service with full career prospects up to CPO level (as Cox'n) and beyond (in General Service). Billets are available in Devonport and Faslane-based submarines. Applicants should be under 35 years old and medically fit for SM service.

Volunteers should apply on Form C241 which, when completed, should be sent to CND. Full details can be found in BR8748 Chapter 4.

New Year gifts from The Collection



Pocket Watch

UK price £53.50 inc p&p
O/S price £56.60 inc p&p

This brushed chrome pocket watch features classy black roman numerals. A lovely gift for all occasions. Presented in a black satin lined gift box.

Chrome Wine Set

UK price £37.30 inc p&p
O/S price £39.00 inc p&p

This elegant selection of wine accessories comprises four items. Drip catcher, foil cutter, corkscrew and a bottle stopper.



Hip Flask

UK price £18.00 inc p&p
O/S price £19.50 inc p&p

This traditional and stylish stainless steel hip flask capable of holding 180ml. It features a beautifully detailed Royal Navy Crown. Approx. size 5" high, 3.5" width



Mini Shoeshine Kit

UK price £8.50 inc p&p
O/S price £9.00 inc p&p

A perfect mini travelling shoe shine kit. Comprising large and small brushes, buffing brush, shoe horn, buffing cloth and polish. Presented in a leather case.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT/MOD
Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO



Polartec 200

Tunic Fleece

UK price £59.99 inc p&p
O/S - Call for details

This high quality Navy Blue water repellent and breathable fleece is perfect to keep out the winter chills. It has a handy draw string bottom and half length zip with detachable Royal Navy zip pull.

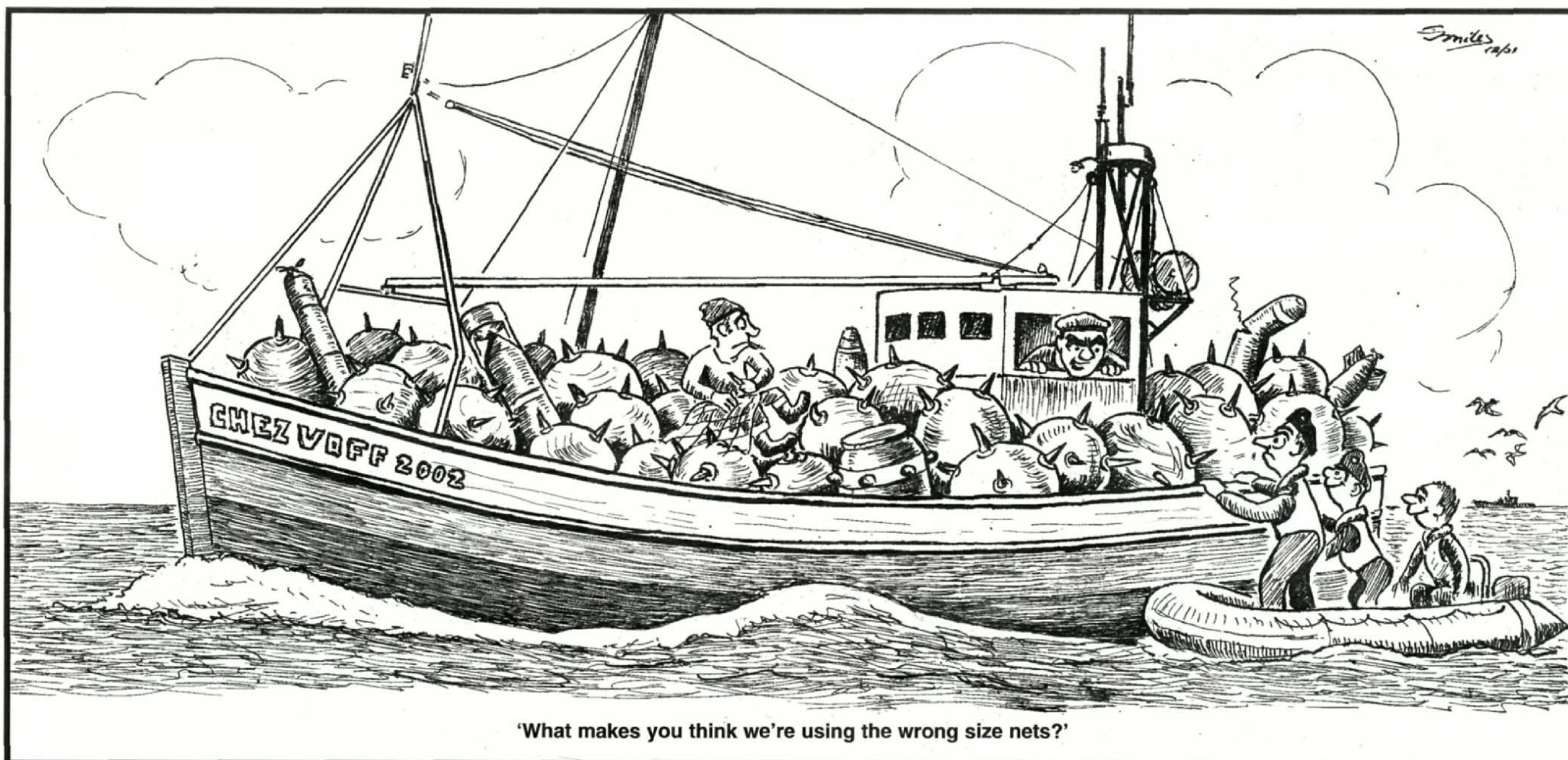
www.navynews.co.uk
Buy on-line

To order simply phone 023 9282 6040

Or write to - The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 3HH
Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside the UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on UK bank.

Or for payment by Credit Card/Switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4.

Please note: items shown not actual size Please allow 28 days for delivery



'What makes you think we're using the wrong size nets?'

NEWSVIEW

Let's lose the fog of war

IN HIS number one best seller of the Gulf War, *The Fist of God*, Frederick Forsyth says United States Air Force and RAF aircrews, as well as sharing airfield space, also shared a common language – so communication between them was “easy, informal and friendly”. Occasionally, however, misunderstandings did occur.

A notable one concerned a secret British location known only as ‘MMFD’...

“On an early training mission, a British Tornado had been asked by the air traffic controller whether it had reached a certain turning-point. The pilot replied that he had not: he was still over MMFD.”

“As time went by, many American pilots heard of this place and scoured their maps to find it. It was a puzzle for two reasons: the British apparently spent a lot of time over it and it was not located on any American air map.”

“The theory was floated it might be a mishearing of KKMC, which stood for King Khaled Military City, a large Saudi base.”

“This was discounted and the search went on. Finally the Americans gave up. Wherever MMFD was to be found, it was simply not on the war maps supplied to USAF squadrons by their planners in Riyadh.”

“Eventually the Tornado pilots admitted the secret of MMFD. It stood for ‘miles and miles of f---ing desert!’.”

It is a good story which may or not be true. It certainly has the ring of authenticity – which is the hallmark of all Forsyth's work. What makes him such a good storyteller is the way that, as *Publishers Weekly* has noted, “characters and background information are introduced so clearly and precisely that impossibly complex events are never confusing, and the story develops its grip so surely it's impossible to put the book down.”

Well, that's a skill the current Director of Corporate Communications (Navy), Commodore Richard Leaman, is convinced the Navy could do well to emulate, in explaining its own mission to the masses. And he is absolutely right, although it is perhaps a pious hope that the Navy will try to learn to speak a language that everyone can understand; all of us, in whatever line of work we work in, tend to develop our own distinctive patois. But the Navy is – as are all the Armed Services – more guilty than most in its fondness for jargon, so try it certainly must.

Jargon is almost always counter-productive. The passage quoted above, although essentially humorous, does suggest that too much time is wasted in trying to unravel each other's shorthand and ‘in jokes’. Confusion to our enemies, fine – but why confuse our friends, too?

The Fist of God – which, ten years on from the unfinished business of the Gulf War, is startlingly relevant to the present campaign against potentially nuclear terrorism – is peppered with acronyms, but at least the author explains them first. Too often we don't, and *Navy News* is itself occasionally guilty of the same communication malpractice.

By common consent, in this office, our personal favourite is ‘FRUKUSOPLANT’. A £20 book token will be sent to whoever provides the first correct translation. Maybe he or she might like to spend it on the next book by the Master, who has done more than most to dispel the fog of war.

If ever he gets round to writing one about the current campaign in the Middle East – in which the Royal Navy has played a prominent role from the outset, and from its very beginnings over 20 years ago – it is certain he will work the same trick again.

In his personal campaign for plain English, DCC(N) could do worse than to sign him up as his principal adviser.



Gold standards in diversity



Geddit?

FOR the second year running the Royal Navy has scooped the coveted Gold Standard award for diversity management.

Cdr Joe Da Gama, the Diversity Policy Officer for the Naval Service, collected it from Charles Kennedy, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, at the British Diversity Awards 2001 ceremony (see left).

The RN also won the Gold Standard award for Diversity Business Partnership, presented by Lady Diana Brittain.

The Royal Naval School of Leadership and Management at HMS Collingwood and the Royal Marines' Commando Training Centre at Lympstone were also finalists for the award of Raising Diversity Awareness.

And the Personal Development Course run by the Directorate of Naval Recruiting at HMS Raleigh and HMS Excellent was also a finalist for the award for Boosting Employment Potential.

Said Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Sir Peter Spencer: “I am delighted that the Navy's considerable efforts to promote diversity have been recognised through these prestigious awards.”

Admiral Spencer had invited the Commission for Racial Equality's new Commissioner for the Armed Forces, Ms Beverly Bernard, and its special adviser, Maj Gen Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter to spend a day in Portsmouth to acquaint them with aspects of life in today's Navy.

– and a Golden Summer Party

RN bases and establishments at home and abroad are invited to take part in the Queen's Golden Jubilee Summer Party by staging garden and ‘street’ parties on June 3, 2002.

Festivities will start at noon with the sounding of church bells and the firing of cannon. Later in the day beacons and bonfires will radiate from a central beacon lit by the Queen in London, to the extremes of the UK and beyond to countries around the world where British Forces serve.

All Navy and Royal Marines personnel and their families are invited to take part by arranging parties and live musical events with a Jubilee theme.

Further information and copies of a brochure to assist in planning are available from Kate Bourne, The Golden Jubilee Summer Party, PO Box 4320, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8DE. Tel 01725 516456, fax 01725 516268. Email info @goldenjubileesummerparty.co.uk. Visit the website www.goldenjubileesummerparty.co.uk

As announced in our September issue, the main tri-Service celebration of the Golden Jubilee will be held at Portsmouth on June 27.

Junior chef wins top culinary title

A ROYAL NAVY chef has won a top prize at the annual Services catering competition – using a key ingredient she doesn't particularly like.

Louise Clarke, of HMS Nelson – only three weeks out of training at HMS Raleigh at the time – took the gold medal and Best in Class as Junior Military Chef of the Year at the Combined Services Culinary Competition with a dish combining chicken and black pudding.

And her win has put her up with the top Naval chefs, as she has been invited to join the Senior Service's cookery team in future contests.

Aged 19, Louise competed with a dozen other top MOD chefs in the Under 24 category at the event, held at Sandown Park in Surrey. After being told that her dish, chicken breast with a black pudding filling, had won the event, Louise said: "I can't believe I have won. I am so proud."

"It was amazing enough just to have been nominated, but to have actually won the competition is the icing on the cake."

"I think it was the black pudding that did it – not an exotic dish, but the judges obviously liked it."

When Louise was searching for ideas for the competition with instructor LCH Paton, she was taken by the contrast between the black pudding and chicken, despite personal prefer-

ences: "I don't even like black pudding, even though it's a traditional Black Country dish," said Louise, whose home is near Wolverhampton.

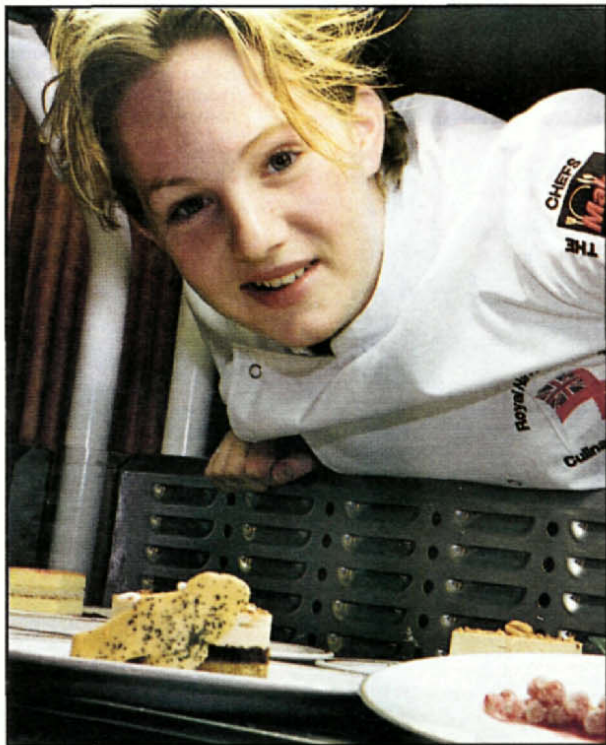
Louise, who is due to join her first ship HMS Illustrious in the Middle East this month, put her success down to training and her reputation as a competitive perfectionist.

Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Sir Peter Spencer said: "I'm absolutely delighted that Louise has won this prestigious award, and it is a credit to both her and the high quality of the training given to the men and women of the Royal Navy."

Around 200 chefs competed in various categories of the three-day competition.

The Royal Navy contingent emerged with heads held high, taking 14 gold medals from 42 entries, a strike-rate the other Services could not match (Army 28 from 123 entries, RAF 12 from 69) – though it was the Army who were judged the overall winners.

Other gold medal Navy performances came from CPOCA Preston (Dryad; Senior Set Show Work); HMS Raleigh (Open Team Buffet RN); Wren Hutchinson (HMS Raleigh; Junior Steward Skills Best in Class); WSTD Timms (HMS Raleigh; Senior Steward Skills Best in Class); BRNC Dartmouth/SODEXHO (Open Cook and Serve Best in Class).



● Louise Clarke brings her culinary talent to bear at HMS Nelson wardroom galley. Picture: LA(PHOT) Jon Hamlet

Cookery tips for cuisine like a champion chef

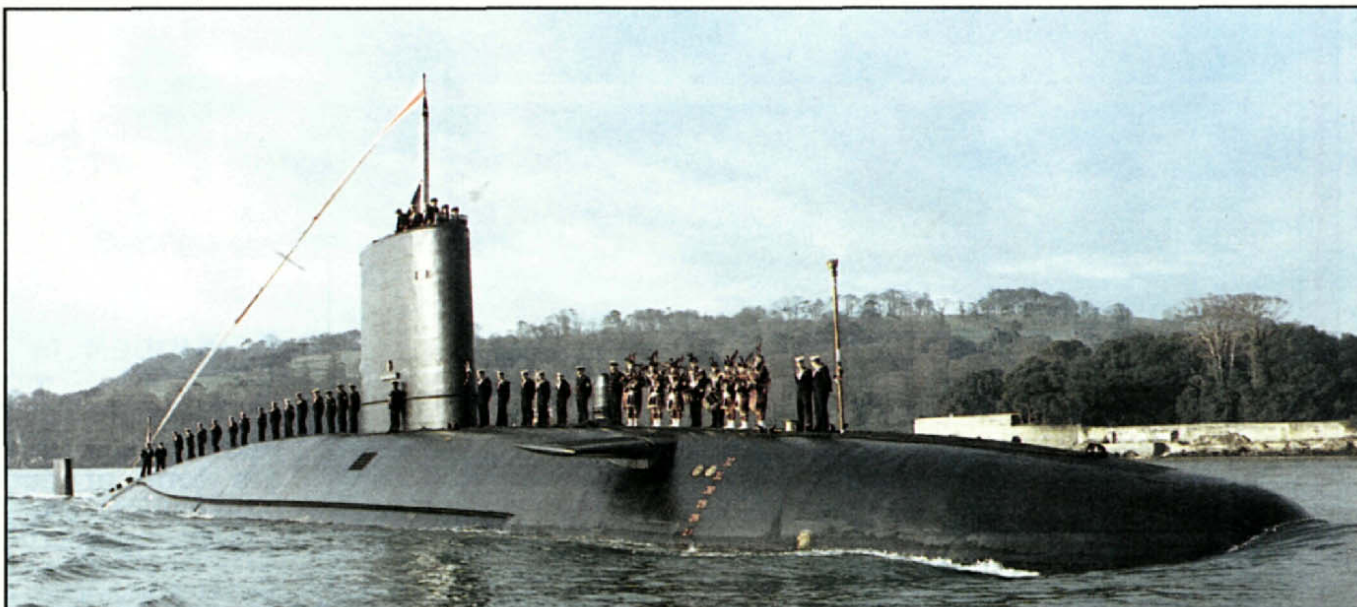
Chicken Breast with Black Pudding Filling

"I put the black pudding, without its skin, into a food processor with herbs, seasoning and an extra chicken fillet, with cream and half an egg white, and blitzed it all down to a paste," said Louise.

"It then went into a piping bag, and I piped it into a chicken breast."

"I then fried the breast one side until it was sealed and golden, and placed it on whatever was left of the black pudding and herbs in a baking tray."

"Then I just baked it until it was done – about 20 minutes – and served it with piped mashed potato, roast garlic and fresh herbs."



● Pipers from the band of the First Royal Scots played a lament while the ensign, Jack and pennant were hauled down as HMS Courageous entered harbour for the last time

Nuclear submarine may open to public

A REDUNDANT nuclear submarine could be opened to the public on permanent display in Devonport Naval Base.

An announcement at a meeting of the Devonport Public Safety Local Liaison Committee last month outlined a plan by the Ministry of Defence to put the decommissioned hunter-killer submarine Courageous on show in the naval base's developing Visitors' Centre.

Courageous, built in 1970 as the last of the Churchill-class Fleet submarines, was based in Faslane, and moved to Devonport in 1993 after she decommissioned.

The 3,500-ton submarine – around the same size as the current Trafalgar-class boat – was defuelled and much of her equipment taken off, including the removal of her reactor core and the draining of her cooling circuit.

Courageous – the HMS prefix is no longer applicable as the boat is no longer in commission – served in the Falklands War, and was the

Naval firepower museum gets national acclaim

NATIONAL awards are falling to Explosion!, the museum of naval firepower at Gosport.

The new attraction has won the 'Specialist Museum of the Year 2002' awarded by The Good Britain Guide.

It described the new museum as 'splendid', and 'a fascinating outing'.

This isn't Explosion's only success. Last year, the museum won the 'Heritage Museum Loo of the Year Award'.

So now there are two more good reasons to visit...

■ Please note an error in December's 'Tread a dangerous path' feature.

Entry to Explosion! costs £5 for adults. Senior citizens remain £4, children £3.

Dutch visitor for Plymouth training

THE LAST of four Dutch ships to be trained in 2001 by the Flag Officer Sea Training organisation arrived in Plymouth in November.

The HNLMS Bloys van Treslong was put through her paces for just over two weeks.

Once she has completed her work-up along the British coast, she heads off on deployment as the Netherlands West Indies guard ship.

first Navy submarine to be fitted with the sub-Harpoon weapon system.

Guided tours will be available once the vessel is opened up, and until that time interested groups could get the opportunity to view the exterior of the submarine.

The boat is currently berthed in 3 Basin, her home since 1993. Under the new proposals, she would be moved to 3 Dock in South Yard next spring. Once in place the dock will be emptied,

leaving Courageous sitting on support blocks.

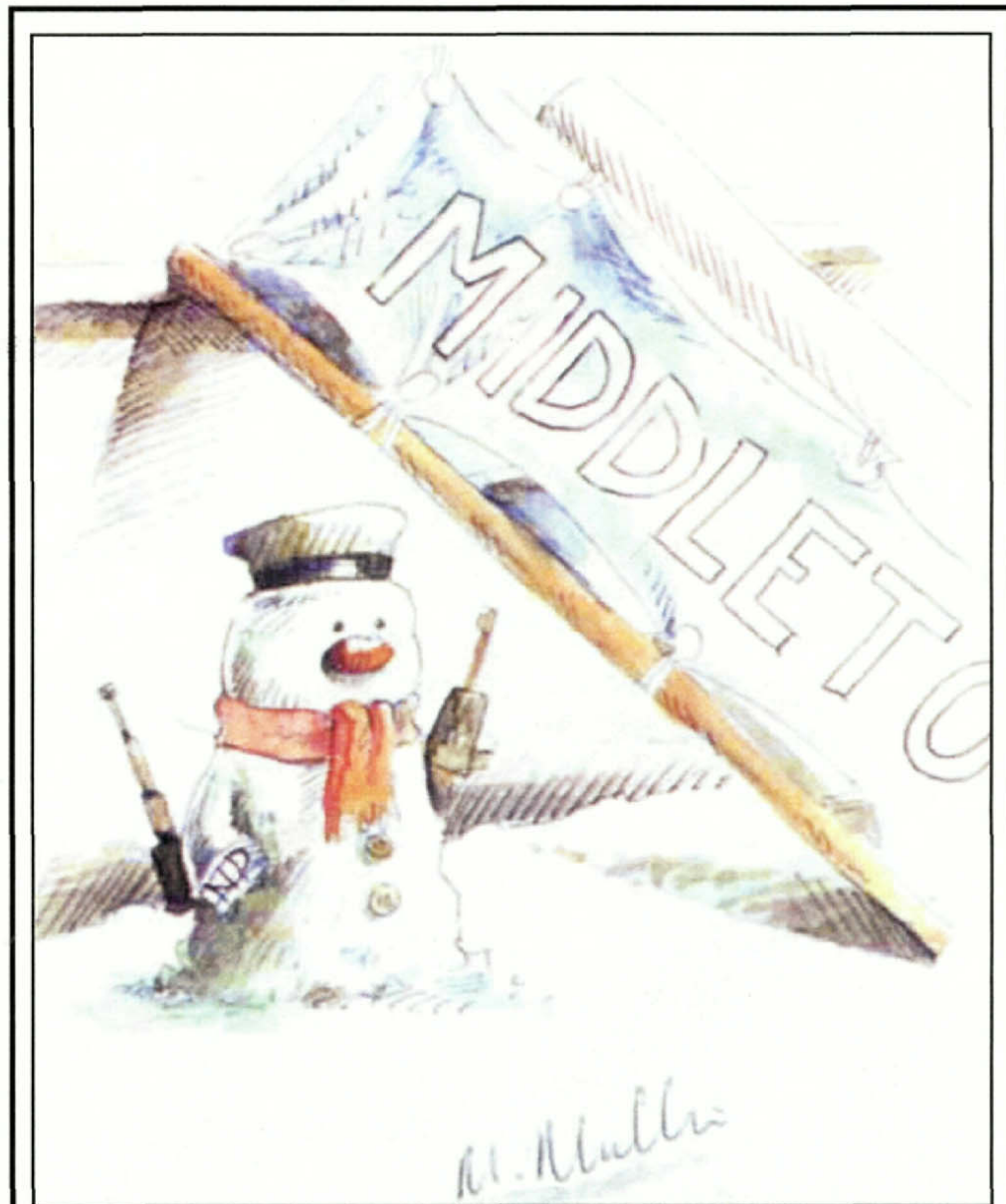
Naval Base Commander Commodore Ric Cheadle said: "We want to take the mystery out of how a nuclear-powered submarine works, and let the public see for themselves how safe they are and to learn about how we maintain and operate them."

"Opening one up to the public is the easiest way to do this. Putting Courageous on display is in line with our plans to expand the

Visitors' Centre and the Naval Base Museum to make us more accessible to the general public."

Cdre Cheadle added: "We are aiming to have the submarine open and available for members of the public to visit during Navy Days 2002."

"Courageous will be a unique visitors' attraction – the only one of its kind in this country and it is hoped that tourists and enthusiasts will be attracted to Plymouth to visit it."



HMS MIDDLETON'S Christmas card cover was drawn by her new Navigating Officer, Lt Matthew Mullen. The Hunt-class minesweeper begins the New Year with a Fishery Protection Patrol along the East coast of the UK, followed by key maintenance and training in February and another Eastern patrol in March. She then starts a six-month refit period.

Dangers of

HIDDEN in the cold, murky depths of the Baltic close to Tallinn are tons of deadly high explosives.

Massive ferries run though the area. Fishermen trawl, and occasionally catch more than they bargained for – one of the mines or other explosive items remaining in Estonian waters as a legacy of the decades when Estonia was enveloped in the twilight of war and occupation.

While the risk of one of these

weapons exploding is normally slight, the destructive powers of mines should not be underestimated – when USS Princetown set off a mine beneath her in the Gulf War in 1991, it did damage to the hull and systems which cost hundreds of millions of dollars to right.

It is estimated that more than 80,000 mines were laid in the Eastern Baltic during the two World Wars alone, with other munitions – practice bombs, torpedoes and the like – being added between 1944 and 1994, the years when Soviet armed forces used the coastline of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as a live-firing range.

Many of these mines were soon cleared – the task of sweeping vast fields of moored floating mines was relatively straightforward.

But some ground mines, torpedoes, sunken moored mines and other ordnance remains, and no one knows in what state – a steel-cased mine from World War I would rust slowly in these cold seas, presenting a very real danger to fishermen and other merchant mariners.

Against this background came an invitation, in 1998, for the Royal Navy, acknowledged world-leaders in this area of maritime operations, to help clear mines. HMS *Atherstone*, as part of a Swedish/Estonian operation, spotted and destroyed 12 mines out of a total of 52 found by the force.

In October 2000, HM ships *Quorn* and *Chiddingfold* joined 16 other NATO/Baltic ships in clearing 72 pieces of ordnance – a total of 75 tons of high explosives – from the Gulf of Riga, and last year HM ships *Bangor*, *Grimsby* and *Ledbury* all joined in, the first two clearing 21 items between them in May.

The shallow Baltic is not an easy sea to work in – storms can force the



● PO(MW) Steve Lacey RNR lays a wreath on an RNR grave on Remembrance Day at Garrison Cemetery in Tallinn, helping to restore the historic links between the Navy and

ships to abandon delicate procedures, and the cold water – temperatures are around 2 degrees C at that time of the year – has at times visibility of only three or four feet.

The mine clearance operation staged during November in the southern part of the Gulf of Finland were the largest of the type in more than 20 years.

Of the 1,000 sailors in 24 ships from ten nations, 100 men and women were provided by the Royal Navy, led by Cdr Charlie Wilson.

Cdr Wilson was in charge of five-strong multi-national groups which included HMS *Penzance*, one of the newest of the Navy's Sandown-class minehunters.

Sister ship HMS *Pembroke* worked with a Baltic minesweeping squadron under the command of an Estonian officer, while HMS *Bridport* took part as the UK contribution to NATO's MCM

● Top left: A mine is detonated in the approaches to Tallinn harbour.

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Jack Russell.

● Above: HMS *Penzance* prepares to enter harbour to shelter from storms in the Baltic.

● Left: Diver Swenson, from HMS *Penzance*.

● Below: HMS *Penzance* leads HMS *Pembroke* into Tallinn for a mid-operation break.

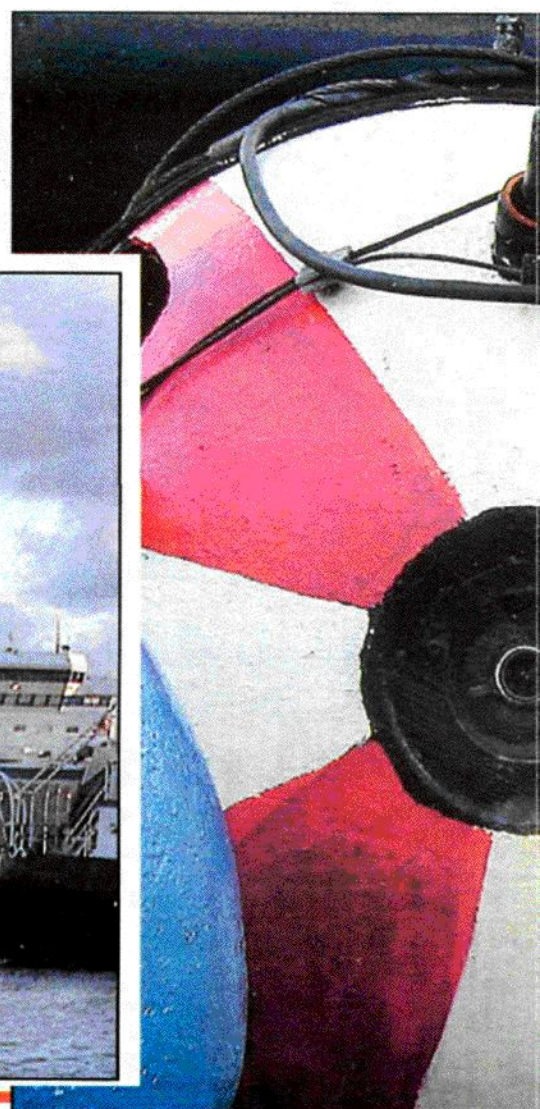
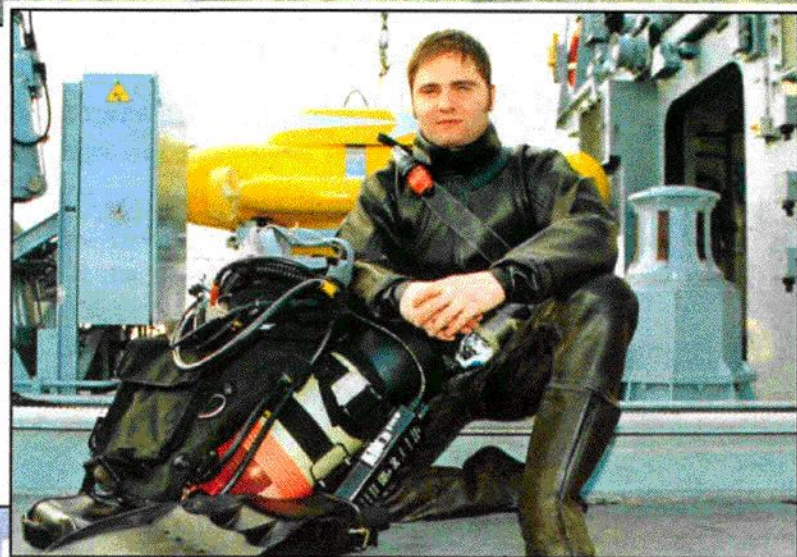
Civic message goes east

FOUR RN Reservists were attached to the squadron staff of MCM1 for the Baltic deployment – and carried a gift and civic message with them.

Lt Cdr Frank Hogan, Lt Andy Beaumont, CPO Andy Swettenham and CPO Ian Pendleton are attached to HMS *Eaglet*, in

Liverpool, and as the city is investigating a twinning arrangement with Tallinn, the four took time to visit Tonis Palts, Mayor of Tallinn, to deliver the gift and message from Cllr Gerry Scott, Lord Mayor of Liverpool.

Similar gifts were brought back to Merseyside.



the deep

Force North.

Part of the Outreach programme, supporting fledgling democracies of central and eastern Europe, these ongoing operations in the Baltic also give the Royal Navy a golden opportunity to maintain its pre-eminence in mine warfare techniques.

Over the course of the two-week programme in November, the combined forces of the UK, Estonia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden found 74 items of ordnance – 47 mines, 21 'miscellaneous projectiles', three torpedoes, two smoke bombs and one depth charge.

Although the removal of maverick explosives is central to the operation, the presence of the British minehunters, and the way they go about their business, is just as important in terms of international relations, and the importance of the operations was

stores stockpiled at Murmansk.

Estonia was recognised in May 1918, but it was not until after the Armistice in November that Britain could support the state in any meaningful way – with Naval units based at Reval (Tallinn), an RN submarine base during the war, fulfilling a UK need for a Baltic base.

Sporadic gun actions between the British and Bolshevik Baltic Fleet, which supported attempts at Russian invasion along the coast, broke out in early 1919.

But after spectacular successes – a cruiser and two battleships were sunk by British coastal motor boats – Lenin dropped Estonia while she had British naval support, and in February 1920, Soviet Russia and Estonia signed the Treaty of Tartu, relinquishing all Russian claims.

Although not widely appreciated by people in the UK, the helping hand given by the Royal Navy to the Baltic state is still remembered with gratitude in Estonia, and the current operations, although not in the same league, demonstrate a continuing commitment to the country.

And there is a spin-off for personnel on board the British ships – it might be cold and gloomy at this time of the year in northern latitudes, but the historic links between the UK and Estonia make Tallinn a good run ashore.

Another major consideration during mine clearance operations included the safety of wildlife.

Advice was sought from local civic authorities and environmental groups, and steps taken to move rare or sensitive species before mine disposal charges were set off.

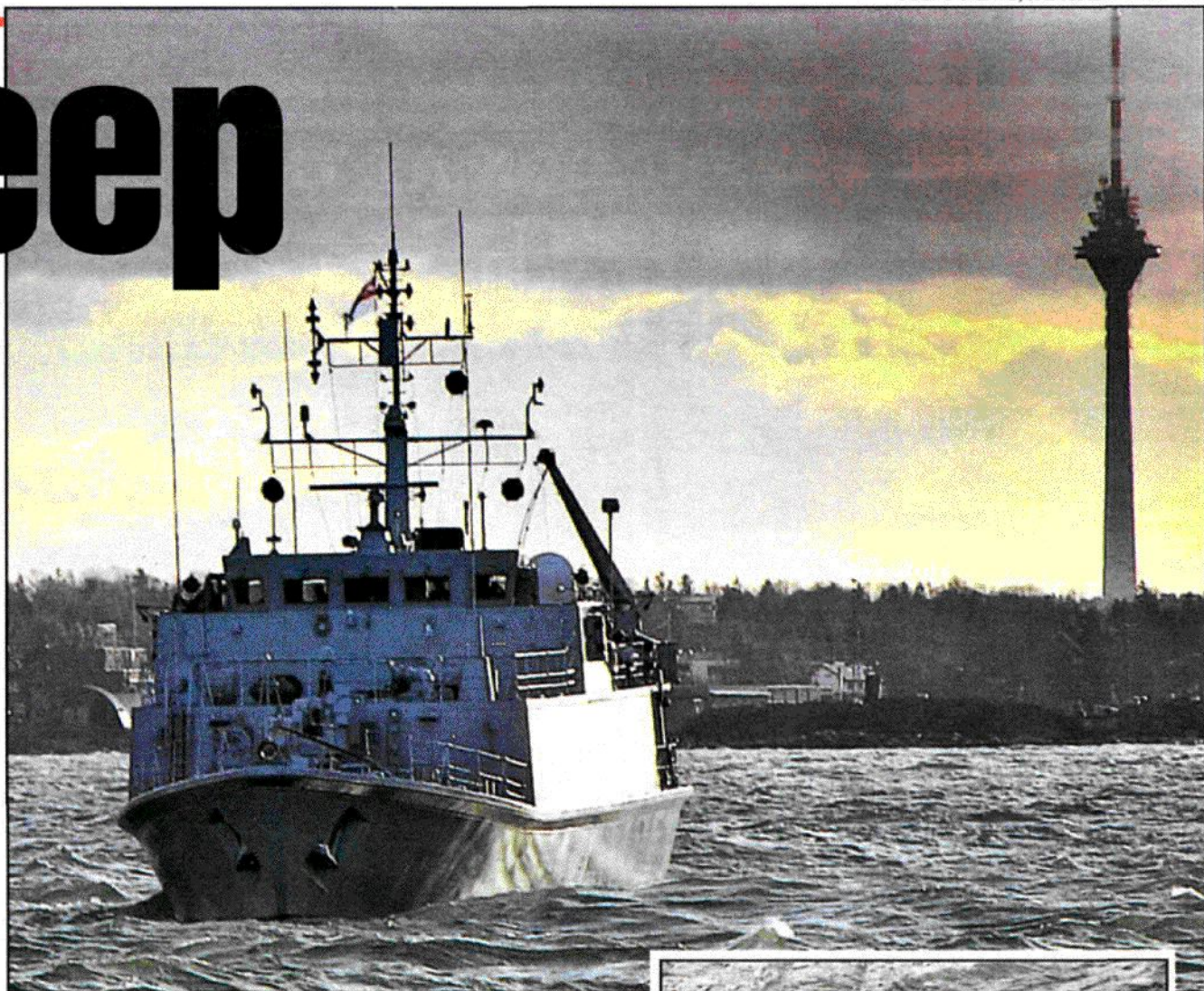
In addition, before any explosives are fired, minehunters transmit on their high-frequency sonar, which will tend to temporarily drive aquatic life in the area away, and a good visual lookout has to be maintained from the deck by members of the ship's company.

underlined by the visit of Prince Michael of Kent, Honorary Commodore of the Royal Naval Reserve, to see the ship at work and speak to the regulars and reservists manning them.

The British are particularly welcome in these parts, a throwback to the immediate aftermath of World War I.

Estonia had seceded from Russia after the October Revolution of 1917, but was immediately invaded by the Bolsheviks from St Petersburg, then the Germans from the south – yet in the interval between the two occupations, had declared herself fully independent.

In the uneasy endgame of the war, Estonia canvassed support from the Allied powers, playing on fears that the Germans might use the Gulf of Finland as a means to capture thousands of tons of war



● Above: HMS Pembroke minehunting off Tallinn.

● Right: A Navy RCMDV (Remote Controlled Mine Disposal Vehicle), also known as a Yellow Submarine, returns to its mothership.

Hunting beats sweeping

MINESWEEPING techniques have hardly changed since World War I – a ship tows equipment astern to cut mooring wires of buoyant mines or set them off by imitating the magnetic or sound signature of a target ship.

But that process puts the minesweeper in danger, and modern technology means it is not foolproof – a minefield may contain different mines, some on the sea-bed, and built-in computers may only activate a mine when a specific ship passes over, or a number of contacts have been counted through.

The preferred option is to hunt for mines using sonar, treating mines as tiny, stationary submarines.

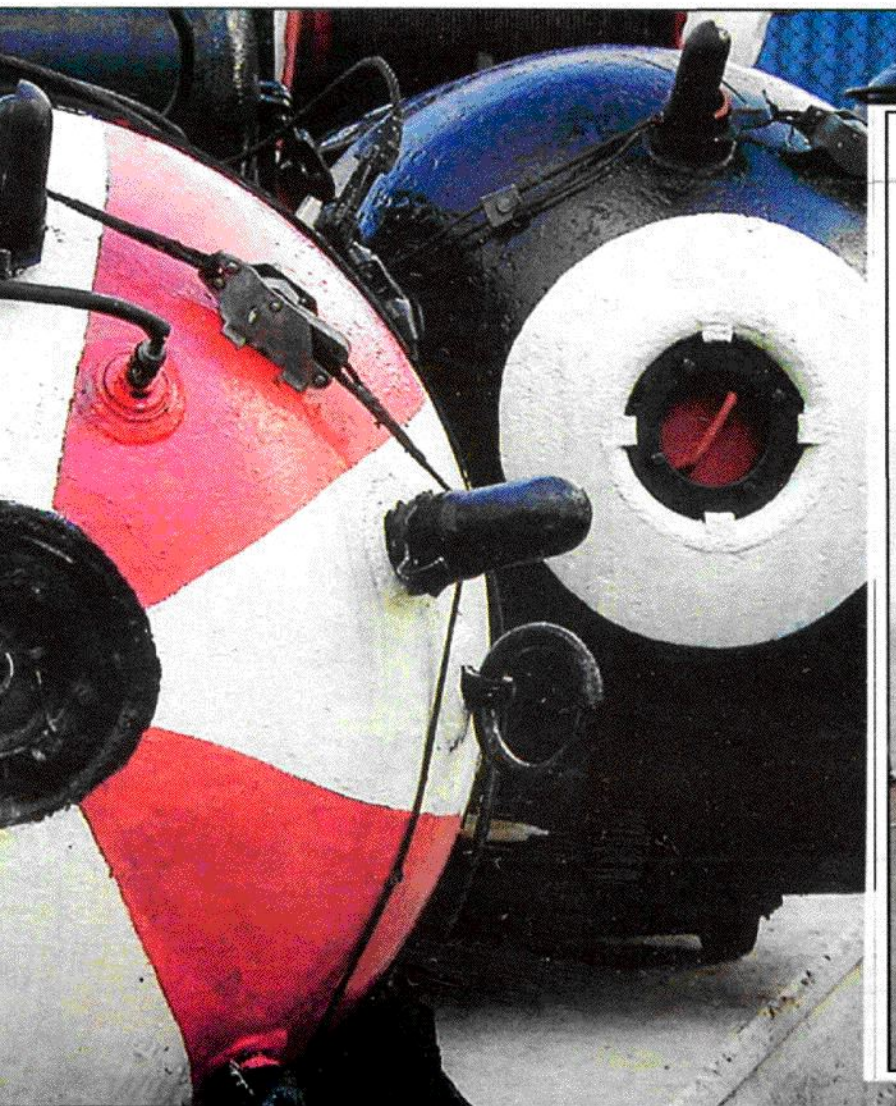
When a mine is located, a remote controlled submersible – the Yellow Submarine – is launched to take a closer look, and, if necessary, lay explosive charges to detonate the mine.

Divers may also be called on in particular situations, for example to help with identification, but that would only be considered when the task cannot be undertaken by a remote controlled vehicle – safety of personnel is the overriding priority.



● Left: Examples of the kind of danger which lurks below the surface of the Baltic are on show at the Estonian Mine Museum.

● Preparations for coming alongside are carried out on the fo'c'sle of HMS Pembroke in a snowstorm off Tallinn.





At Your Leisure

NELSON: A FRESH LOOK AT THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND

SEPARATING the myth from the reality of Nelson's life and character provides apparently endless scope for the biographer – and as time goes by it is inevitable that more of the less likeable traits in his complex personality will be highlighted.

In *Nelson: the Man and the Legend* (Bloomsbury £20) many aficionados will feel the well-known political journalist Terry Coleman has gone a tad too far in digging up the dirt.

In fact, much of it has already been well turned over. The most notable blot on his escutcheon, his behaviour in the aftermath of the rebellion at Naples in which he hung 100 of the insurgents, has generally been put down to a 'mid-life crisis'.

Here it is shown as an example of his ruthlessness – and certainly Nelson was ruthless in the prosecution of what he saw as his duty. He is said to have single-handedly introduced the concept of annihilation into the battleground – but in this he was entirely as one with his country's political leaders, as Joseph F. Callaghan has noted in *Nelson Speaks* (reviewed in our November issue).

The author seeks to demonstrate that he was a fanatic for duty – "at times beyond all sense".

He was "a royalist so infatuated with the divine right of kings that he began to see himself, in revolutionary times, as the instrument of God. This made him a good hater."

"He hated the American rebels of the 13 colonies, and the harmless liberal rebels against the Bourbon king of Naples, as unforgivably as he hated the revolutionary French and then Napoleon."

Exploding the myth

givingly as he hated the revolutionary French and then Napoleon."

He was reckless, too – at Santa Cruz he entirely lost the value of surprise and yet insisted on repeatedly attacking a resolutely defended position.

He was certainly not everybody's cup of tea; Earl St Vincent – once his patron and supporter – said of him: "Animal courage was the sole merit of Lord Nelson, his private character most disgraceful."

His liaison with Emma Hamilton was hardly unusual in a day when mistresses were passed around like so much disposable property (as she had been). It was the fact that they openly and extravagantly flaunted it that offended the Establishment, including the Admiralty.

Nelson was, for all his faults, deeply loved by his sailors – and by the public at large.

Yet the author shows him to be half-unhinged at the height of his fame – a generous man who wanted his wife dead, besotted with Emma but jealously unsure of her, at odds with his honourable father whose funeral he did not attend, at law with his old mentor St Vincent



over prize money (which goes some way to explaining St Vincent's verdict on him, but Nelson, it seems, was quarrelling with everyone by this time) and



● **ANNIHILATION:** Nelson's policy of total defeat of the enemy was exemplified in the Battle of the Nile. This spirited but inaccurate engraving was published by Edward Thompson in October 1798 when news of the victory reached London. The fort of Aboukir was more than a mile away and played no part in the action and Bruey's flagship, L'Orient, blew up in darkness, late at night. Inset: Heinrich Füger's portrait of Nelson – said to be the most penetrating, and the only one in civilian clothes – was painted in Vienna in 1800.

damning the Lords of the Admiralty as a set of beasts.

Like Mountbatten, his 20th century counterpart as a great Naval hero, Nelson was notoriously vain and had a great talent for self-publicity – "he always wanted to be seen to have won gallantly and was grieved when even his friends did not see it that way," Coleman notes. Often Nelson's version of events was at variance with others' – and yet his account was the one that prevailed.

To a great extent, this pattern continued after his death – the single most influential biography, by the Poet Laureate Robert Southey, published in 1813, was mostly based on the massive, two-volume official biography by Clarke and M'Arthur, which was in part controlled by Nelson's brother William. Few biographers can ever

have known less about their subject and Southey probably saw no single paper of Nelson's.

Coleman's book, by contrast, is based almost entirely upon original letters and documents.

These undoubtedly prove that Nelson can be all things to all people – which is why this penetrating re-examination of a many-faceted, deeply human man will certainly not be the last.

A Subscription means you will be:

- First to see the latest Navy News from around the world
- First to receive Special Offers
- Your copy is delivered to your door hot off the press



TO SUBSCRIBE COMPLETE COUPON AND POST TODAY!

YES, I would like to subscribe to Navy News

(please refer to the table opposite for price):
Send the completed form and payment to:

Navy News Subscriptions,
Navy News, HMS Nelson,
Queen Street, Portsmouth,
Hampshire, PO1 3HH, England
Telephone +44 02392 826040 (24hr)

YOUR DETAILS:

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Country:
Tel No:

REGION	YEARS	RATE	TICK
UK	One	£17.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
UK	Two	£31.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
UK	Three	£46.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas*	One	£20.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas*	Two	£36.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas*	Three	£52.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Overseas Surface Mail including Republic of Ireland, Europe, Canada, USA & Australasia (Airmail rates available on request)

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order/International Money Order made payable to 'Navy News' for:

£ (£ Sterling)

or pay by Visa/Mastercard/Delta/Switch using the coupon on page 4.

Credit Card orders cannot be accepted under £5.00

Due to administration costs, a refund cannot be given if the subscription is cancelled during the first four months.

This is a new subscription ☐

Renewed subscription ☐

Start my subscription from month:

Tales from the Hood, by her own people

MANY of the existing books about the 'Mighty Hood' detail her design, construction and armament – but the latest, *Hood's Legacy* (Bernard Durnford £15.99) is almost entirely about her people.

Nixie Taverner plots the Hood's time-line from her first commissioning in 1920 until her catastrophic loss in May 1941, chronicling all her activities, cruises and action.

The story is vividly supplemented by the reminiscences of those who served in her, from Hood Association veteran 101-year-old Bill Stone, during the World Cruise of 1923-24, to several who experienced action in her in the early part of World War II.

When the Hood was sunk by the Bismarck, it was the worst single disaster the Royal Navy had ever suffered. Sir Ludovic Kennedy compared the traumatic effect on the public to Buckingham Palace being laid flat or the Prime Minister being assassinated.

More recently, the effect of Hood's loss has been dramatically compared with the shock to national pride experienced in the United States with the destruction of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Thanks to original archival material, gathered mainly from the Hood Association, including many photographs published for the first

time, Nixie Taverner has constructed a memorable addition to the file.

Her close personal connections with the ship also inspired her book *A Torch Among Tapers* (Bernard Durnford £24.99), a biography of her father Capt Rory O'Connor, who was Hood's Commander from 1933-36.

At that time morale within the Fleet had not recovered fully from the legacy of the Invergordon Mutiny, but by the end of that commission in 1936 Hood had become, once again, a "happy ship".

Rory knew the names of every man aboard – over 1,400 – and he ran the ship by 'Ten Commandments', forming the basis of a book he wrote and published in 1937, *Running a Big Ship*.

His philosophy transcends the decades and remains today a common sense method to optimise personnel motivation, commitment and efficiency.

His first command, of the cruiser HMS Neptune, from May 1940 to December 1941, was tragically also his last.

Laconia survivor's five week lifeboat ordeal

IN APRIL 1994 South African Tony Large placed a notice in *Navy News* 'Calling Old Shipmates' column, hoping to trace three sailors with whom he spent five weeks in a lifeboat after the sinking of the troopship Laconia in 1942.

His three friends turned out to be dead – but the flurry of correspondence his notice attracted inspired him to further research.

This is now published as *In Deep and Troubled Waters* (Paul Watkins £19.95).

The Laconia incident has now become famous, but this is the first book-length account to be written by a survivor (who had earlier also survived the sinking of HMS Cornwall).

Tony – who now lives in Tasmania, where he was in general medical practice for nearly 40 years – says he owes his life to the chivalry of a U-Boat captain, Korvettenkapitan Werner Hartenstein, who after sinking the Laconia started and managed a sustained rescue attempt.



Navy News

www.navynews.co.uk

At Your Leisure



Castles in the air – the age of the all-purpose 'cog'

THE STANDARD warship of medieval times was the 'cog' – of which not a single fighting example has yet been discovered. These clinker-built ships grew out of both the Scandinavian Viking ships and the Germanic-designed, flat-bottomed coastal trading vessels of the Hanseatic League.

Much of what we know about them comes from literary references and from images such as the official city and port seals of Northern Europe in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Although no "war cogs" have been identified by archaeologists, one essentially complete merchant cog – and the best-preserved example yet seen – was found in 1962 by workers dredging the banks of the River Weser.

This was excavated in 1965, chemically treated and carefully reconstructed at the Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum. Analysis of the timbers showed it was built around 1378.

Until the discovery of the Bremen, or Hanse cog, details of how they were built and their appearance were unknown. The 23m long 7.6m wide cog has a flat bottom, a sharp turn at the bilges and rounded sides made up of overlapped, edge-sided planking.

The bow and stern rise from the keel at sharp angles, with a rudder – only recently introduced to Europe from the Orient – fixed to the sternpost. A single mast carried a square sail. The stern castle at the aft end, trapezoidal in shape, overhung the sides of the deck.

Study of the Bremen cog allowed archaeologists to identify other wrecks, not as well preserved, as cogs, adding to the body of knowledge about these long-lost ships.

Since then, the Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum has built a sailing replica. Its angled sides, towering over the water, gave men on the deck an advantage over attackers in smaller ships or boats who had to climb up the sides while defenders on the deck fired down into them.

These were not the longships of war devel-

oped by several cultures over the past millennia. They were instead stout platforms with flat bottoms that kept them stable and made them capable of carrying great weight. In time of war, massive timber structures could be erected on them, making them into seagoing fortresses.

These structures, sometimes only at the stern, other times at bow and stern, were known as stern castles and forecastles. Occasionally, a castle was added to the top of the mast.

Experience gained in the Crusades showed how these larger ships, with greater height, allowed men to carry the day over row galleys, which rested lower in the water.

They also prevailed in sea battles by overpowering another ship with sheer numbers, or by delivering death from a great height with arrows, heavy stones or Greek fire.

Ships fought by approaching with the wind, turning and heading for the midships area at right angles to try to ram the other. This was the mode of warfare for 400 years, from about 1000 to 1400 – archers rained down an initial barrage and then the ships grappled as men swarmed onto each other's decks to fight it out with sword, javelin, battle-axe or pike.

The size of the cog made it capable of carrying a large cargo or a number of fighting men. It was a worthy successor to the Viking ship and the next major step in the evolution of what would become the gun-carrying wooden warship of the 16th century – of which the Mary Rose is a prime example.

Its story is told in *Lost Warships – An Archaeological Tour of War at Sea* by James P. Delgado (Conway Maritime Press £25)

At a ceremony on board the Federal German frigate Lubeck in the port of Lubeck last month, the German President Johannes Rau presented the World Ship Trust Maritime Heritage Award to the Hanse Cog.



● Model of a cog, showing its distinctive, towering hull with fore and stern castles. This feature made the cog a more formidable warship than the earlier Viking-style ships.

– Model by A. Martinovic Izanin in the collection of Michael Paris

'Psst! Hey, Jack wanna know where the loot's hidden?'

You can find out by reading the action-packed new novel 'Some Distant Shore' by Reg Osborn.

Available by post now from:

Banyan Books, 55 Norbury Hill, London SW16 3LA £11.99 plus £2.20 p&p UK

£3.00 EU - £5.00 world-wide surface mail. Payment: Sterling Cheque or Postal/Money Orders only.

'Some Distant Shore' A fiction novel set in the Aegean Islands during WW2 telling of RN under-cover operations by the Levant Special Schooner Flotilla and the Army's S.B.S. raiding patrols. An exciting and gripping tale of violent action both at sea and on land, love and sex, religious and political chicanery, hidden looted treasure worth millions of pounds, courage, duplicity, betrayals and brave comradeship as seen through the eyes of a young AB who grows to manhood while serving with Special Forces. Many of the scenes described in the book are based on true events, albeit written-up for dramatic impact, and are validated in the footnotes. This is the first work of fact-based fiction that tells the little-known story of covert operations that took place hundreds of miles behind enemy-held islands in the Aegean.

Warning! some may find it politically incorrect; it contains much coarse, lower-deck language... and humour as well. Scenes of explicit sex and terrible atrocities are described so graphically that it is definitely not a read for the easily shockable!

Calm Seas and Safe Harbours, shipmates. Reg Osborn - author/publisher and bookseller:

Banyan Books, 55 Norbury Hill, London S16 3LA

(10% of the first three months sales are donated to: The Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Servicemen and Women)

NAVAL AND MARITIME BOOKS BOUGHT AND SOLD
LARGE STOCKS - MONTHLY CATALOGUES
SHOP OPEN 10-4 (SATURDAY 10-1)
SEND FOR FREE CATALOGUE
Frank Smith Maritime Books,
98/100 Heaton Road., Newcastle
Upon Tyne, NE6 5HL
Telephone: 0191 265 6333

"HMS. GANGES (The final farewell) . . . video. Ideal birthday /surprise present. Documentary includes all aspects of GANGES before demolition. One tear-jerking hour of nostalgia, produced by JOHN DOUGLAS author H.M.S. GANGES (Roll on my dozen!) & H.M.S. GANGES (Tales of the T.R.O.G.'S.) S.A.E. details Douglas Hse, Penmarth Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6NX

HP BOOKFINDERS: Established professional service locating out of print titles on all subjects. No obligation or SAE required. Contact: Moss Laird, Brig O' Turk, Callander, FK17 8HT Telephone/Fax: (01877) 376377 martin@hp-bookfinders.co.uk

HISTORIC CD-ROMS: Naval & Marine Lists; Early Portsmouth Street Directories & Guides; Portsmouth Dockyard Photos 1900-1920; All CD's £11.44 delivered. Phone 023 9275 6275 for list or visit website www.archivebritain.com



HMS HERMES 1923 & 1959

By Neil McCart

For the first time in one volume, here are the comprehensive histories of the two aircraft carriers named *Hermes*. The stories take the reader from the 1920s into the Second World War, the late 1950s and 60s, through to the Falklands campaign and into the Indian Navy where the last *Hermes* serves as *INS Viraat*. There are 137 photographs, including seven in colour and a foreword by Rear-Admiral K. A. Snow, the *Hermes*' last CO. Hardback with full-colour laminated dust jacket.

Price £24 plus p&p. ISBN 1 901225 05 4

Also Still Available in Hardback:

HMS VANGUARD 1944-1960 BRITAINS LAST BATTLESHIP £19.95 + P&P

HMS EAGLE 1942-1978 £18.95 + P&P

HMS VICTORIOUS 1937-1969 £21.00 + P&P

HMS CENTAUR 1943-1972 £16.95 + P&P

THREE ARK ROYALS 1938-1999 £23.00 + P&P

TIGER, LION & BLAKE 1942-1986 £21.50 + P&P

ILLUSTRIOUS & IMPLACABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS £23.00 + P&P

Please add £2.50 p&p for the UK & EU or £4.00 for worldwide surface mail. Payment by sterling cheque, postal order, or by VISA/MASTERCARD. Telephone/Fax orders welcomed.

From FAN PUBLICATIONS, 17 Wymans Lane, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 9QA.

Tel/Fax 01242 580290, or order from good bookshops.

Periscope Publishing Ltd
'The Mystery of HMS Affray'
'Shipwrecks of the Battle of Jutland'
'Titanic's sister - HMHS Britannic'
'The U-Boat Wrecks of WWII'
These videos combine colour underwater film and history to tell great sea tales.
Available for £16.80 each incl. p&p from 33 Barwis Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2AW (01736) 330769 www.periscopepublishing.com

DO YOU HAVE A BOOK TO PUBLISH?
We are currently seeking books in all categories.
Please write for details quoting reference 'S23' to:
SERENDIPITY
Suite 530, 37 Store Street, Bloomsbury, London, WC1E 7QF
Telephone & Facsimile 0845 130 2434

OUR MASSIVE JANUARY SALE

Please phone or write for details of our sale of naval books and videos. All new titles - many reduced for the first time. Order now whilst stocks last. see them on the web at:

www.navybooks.com

Or send for a catalogue to:
MARITIME BOOKS
Lodge Hill, Liskeard PL14 4EL
Tel: 01579 343663 Fax: 01579 346747

To reach a huge reading audience...
Advertise here!
Ring Advertising Dept on
023 9272 5062

ScreenScene

– by Bob Baker

Lee Marvin's own personal hell in the Pacific

HELL in the Pacific was a 1968 production now available on video in digitally remastered form, though lacking the CinemaScope proportions of the original.

It's a desert island movie that owes little to such literary predecessors as *Robinson Crusoe* or *Swiss Family Robinson*. In the confusion of some unnamed naval battle of World War II, a Japanese ship's officer (Toshiro Mifune) and an American flyer (Lee Marvin) find themselves marooned together on a Pacific atoll.

At first they fight, knife versus bamboo spear. A period of sulking follows – not difficult since neither speaks the other's language – mixed with desultory acts of aggression in which first one comes out on top, then the other.

This gives way to a state of wary truce and finally to amicable co-existence, in which they entertain themselves as best they may – building a sand garden, contemplating the activities of the local crab population, launching into mutually incomprehensible monologues.

At last they embark on a properly co-operative project, the building of a raft. A perilous voyage, however, only takes them to yet another deserted island, this one scarred by the debris of a recent battle.

This brutal reminder of their status as warring ene-

mies, plus their discovery of a stash of liquor, seems to put the movie on course for the obvious finish, where the two men kill one another. The film makers manage to steer clear of such predictability, though at the cost of some confusion on the part of the audience as regards just what it is that's supposed to have happened.

It's a strange film, at its best when concentrating on the purely physical details of desert island survival, raft-building and so on. It's certainly unlike anything else Lee Marvin ever made.

A recent biography of the late actor explained that the project had particular meaning for him since he had served as a Marine during the Pacific war and been badly wounded on Saipan.

Apparently he took advantage of the location shooting to revisit the island where, a quarter of a century on, rusty cartridge cases and even splinters of bone were still scattered about. No wonder *Hell in the Pacific* finds the tough guy actor in much more subdued form than usual.

Film buff's corner: the picture was remade, unofficially, in 1985 as *Enemy Mine*, which sounds like it ought to have a 'war at sea' background but which in fact reworked the story in sci-fi terms, with an Earthman and an adversary from a rival galaxy marooned together on a hostile planet.



● LMSA Paul Rabone with WMSA Tebbutt treating a cadet with a simulated leg injury during Exercise Viking Spirit

Fighting the medical battle

EXERCISE Viking Spirit provided members of the Royal Naval Reserve Medical Branch with an experience of treating casualties in a simulated conflict situation.

Over 150 men and women from the Royal Naval Reserve Medical Branch (RNRMB) took part.

The custom-built 100 bed hospital on RFA Argus, complete with CT scanner, was recreated in the Army Medical Services (TA) Field Training Centre near York.

This was the Primary Casualty Receiving Ship (PCRS) modelled precisely on two decks of RFA Argus.

The clinical team staffing a PCRS must have a breadth of clinical skills capable of dealing with the trauma of high intensity fighting, as well as the general medical problems of a campaign.

For over 48 hours, the medics brought in from all over the country dealt with casualties from an amphibious task group attack.

Cadets played Service personnel brought on board for rapid assessment and treatment. Injuries were simulated in all their gory glory, and the medical staff worked day and night to fulfil their roles.

Surgeon Commander Don Fitzroy Smith, Senior Medical Officer at HMS Eaglet, was Medical Officer in charge of the exercise, visited by senior officers for all three Services. He described the event as an "absolute success".

He added, "The significance of recent events in New York was lost on none of us. Because of that everyone treated the training extremely seriously, and got real value out of the exercise."

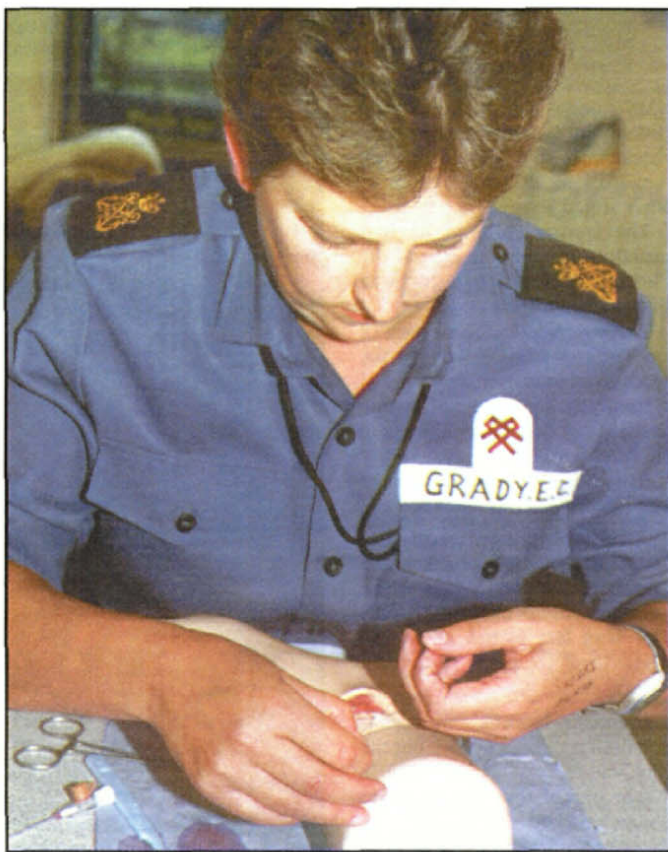
The PCRS was operating on a 60 bed capacity and the venue provided a good opportunity to reproduce an authentic working environment for RNRMB personnel. Support and stores were available on this Territorial Army site as for a real incident.

Annual operational role training is designed to train RNRMB personnel for their war role, and Exercise Viking Spirit provided an excellent opportunity.

The RNRMB remains keen to hear from doctors or nurses wishing to join the Service.

It provides medical support to the RN in times of stretch, tension, disaster or war on the same basis as the medical reserves of the other Armed Services.

Its principal task is to provide medical and nursing staff for a PCRS as exercised in Viking Spirit. Other tasks include posts in Britain and deployment to ships.



● PONN Elaine Grady of HMS Wildfire attaches an infusion line to a vein in a moulded plastic foot during Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) training

Emergency care for trauma cases

AN Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) training course was run for 20 RN personnel as a prelude to Exercise Viking Spirit.

This training equips medical personnel to deal with situations of immediate action and limited resources.

This requires swift assessment of the situation for diagnostic and management priorities so that the patient can be stabilised.

The skills needed for conflict are similar to those for Accident and Emergency departments, trauma surgery and anaesthesia within general hospitals.

This training focuses initially on saving life. Once the patient is stabilised, the medical staff can shift their focus to saving limbs.

The significant majority of those trained were RNR doctors, along with four Reserve Nursing POs.

The ATLS course was begun in North America by the American College of Surgeons. It is now run by licence by the Royal College of Surgeons in the UK.

This means that RNRMB personnel successfully completing the course gain a useful civilian qualification to take back to their hospitals.

The Navy Making Headlines

Extracts and superb photographs taken from some of Navy News' top stories during 2001

Buy the Calendar
Relive the
Action!

CALENDAR



Making
Headlines



Some topics
featured:

HMS OCEAN

"Mercy ships on Mosquito Coast"

HMS CROMER

"On call force"

ROYAL MARINES

"East meets West"

HMS ARK ROYAL

"Great Dames"

MK 2 SEA KINGS

"Torched"

HMS DUMBARTON CASTLE

"Biscay rescue"

RFA BRAMBLELEAF

"Exercise Kangaroo"

Our calendar looks back through the Navy News' files to remember times when we reported stories about some of the busiest units of the Fleet, and their activities around the world.

Did you know that in the year 2001 alone, Royal Navy ships were engaged in twelve live operations.

The perfect gift for those with an interest in naval history

Please send your orders to: The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 3HH

Cheques payable to Navy News to accompany orders. For orders outside the UK payment can be made by Cheque/International Money Order in £ Sterling and drawn on UK bank. Or for payment by Credit Card/Switch, UK & Abroad, please use the coupon on page 4.

Telephone: 023 9282 6040 Fax: 023 9283 0149 or order online at www.navynews.co.uk

Please allow 28 days for delivery

£6.50

UK

(inc P&P)

£7.25

Surface Mail Abroad

(inc P&P)





Royal Naval Association

Standards invited to Flower Festival

RNA BRANCHES in the Reading area have been invited to parade their standards at a flower festival in May.

The festival is being staged at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, Berkshire, from May 17 to 19.

Sadie Clare, chairman of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Flower Guild, said: "On Sunday May 19 Pangbourne College will parade as usual following a service of morning prayer in the chapel."

"Following this, the chapel will be open to the general public from 12 noon.

"Sadly, the chapel will be full with students and their families, and seating is reduced to allow space for flowers, so we cannot invite members to attend the service, but we are pleased to invite the RNA to parade their standards as the final element of the college parade and to mount a Guard of Honour outside the chapel for the first visitors to the Flower Festival at about noon.

"The College Marching Band will still be on duty and a College Colour Party will be available."

If an association wishes to parade a standard on the day, please contact Anthony Toms at 8, Virginia Way, Southcote, Reading RG30 3QH, telephone 01189 572727.

Wives, partners and families will be welcome to view the festival after the parade, and other groups, such as the Royal British Legion.

Canberra members visit frigate

DURING HMS Northumberland's recent visit to Sydney, Australia, 25 shipmates from the Canberra branch, with their partners and friends, spent a very enjoyable afternoon on board the frigate, hosted by the petty officers - who proved to be first class hosts.

On arrival, the RNA party was taken to the hangar for a "getting to know you" session which included drinks, small eats and a photograph in front of the ship's helicopter on the flight deck.

After a full tour of the ship in five parties of five, it was back to the hangar for more drinks, small eats and an exchange of gifts at which the Commanding Officer, Cdr Stuart McQuaker, was present.

The Canberra branch is going well, with membership on the increase and a very successful Trafalgar Day dinner.

This was attended by the branch patron, Commodore Graham Wiltshire RN, the Defence and Naval Adviser at the British High Commission in Canberra.



● Gordon Bruty drops his wreath into the sea to commemorate the victims of Convoy PQ17.

Convoy ghost is laid to rest

A WARTIME tragedy has haunted Gordon Bruty for a long time - since 1942, to be precise.

What Lt Cdr Bruty RN rtd found so hard to forget was the tragedy of Arctic Convoy PQ17, and the role played by the escort warships, including HMS London, in which he was serving as a CPO (Engine Room) Artificer.

A mini-fleet of warships escorted PQ17 when it sailed on June 27, 1942, from Reykjavik, in Iceland, for Russia, loaded with vital supplies.

The cargo was being taken to the ports of Archangel and Murmansk by 38 merchant ships.

On July 4, intelligence reported a sighting of the much-feared German battleship Tirpitz, and the convoy was ordered to scatter.

The warships went in search of the battleship, leaving the merchant ships to fend for themselves in what Gordon described as a turkey-shoot.

They were picked off, one by one, by prowling U-boats, and 23 ships were lost.

While the tragedy, one of the grimmest in the history of the Merchant Navy, is well-documented, Lt Cdr Bruty believes the merchant ships were badly let down by their escorts.

"We were there to do a job - to protect them - but we went off hunting the Tirpitz. It was a disaster," said Lt Cdr Bruty.

In an act of personal atonement

to the men who were lost, Lt Cdr Bruty decided on his 80th birthday to return to northern waters and cast a wreath in their memory, and to express his sorrow for what happened.

"I was doing it as much for myself and for those who so needlessly lost their lives," he said.

With his wife Jean, Gordon sailed from Southampton to Iceland in the cruise ship Aurora.

Capt Bourgoine, the captain of the Aurora, on hearing why Gordon was making the trip to Iceland, held a service of remembrance for PQ17 on board the liner, which was attended by hundreds of passengers.

In 1942 the transport of much-needed supplies from Iceland to Russia was a hazardous run.

"I don't think the authorities realised how dangerous," said Gordon, recalling how quickly fog could descend, the threat of icebergs and U-boats, and the fierce weather conditions.

PQ was the code assigned to every convoy on that particular route, and at first the programme was successful.

Of the 12 convoys and 103 ships which made the run from Iceland, in April, 1942, only one ship was lost.

A month later, PQ16 lost five ships, but this did not alter plans for PQ17, which left Iceland with the largest and most valuable cargo to date.

The convoy's 38 ships carried 300 aircraft, 4,000 trailers and trucks, 600 tanks, and general supplies exceeding 150,000 tons.

The convoy's escort warships

were the County-class cruiser HMS London and her sister ship HMS Norfolk, two US cruisers - Tuscaloosa and Wichita - a squadron of destroyers and 15 other armed vessels.

The convoy suffered its first casualty on July 1, when the Christopher Newport was hit by an air-launched torpedo.

Three days later the sighting of the Tirpitz was reported and the order given to scatter.

Ironically, the German warship was far from the convoy, docked in the Altenfjord in Norway.

It wasn't just the merchantmen who faced danger in that action.

The Walrus spotter plane of HMS Norfolk had just been launched when the convoy was broken up, "and he was left in the air with nowhere to go," recalled Gordon.

Eventually Norfolk's Walrus circled until it ran out of fuel, but the pilot was lucky - he was taken in tow by one of the surviving ships which reached Archangel, the Palomares - although at first he had been mistaken for a German attacker and fired at by the merchant ship.

The voyage to Iceland has, after almost 60 years, finally closed a painful chapter in the life of Lt Cdr Bruty, and he has made his peace with the ghost of PQ17.

"It was all I could do - and I'm glad I made the effort," he said.

Highland branch is thriving

THINGS are bonny in the Scottish Highlands with what is believed to be the most northerly branch in mainland Britain.

Since commissioning in 1999, the branch, despite its isolated location 540 miles north of London and 105 miles west of Aberdeen, has a membership of 68, of whom 46 are full members.

As many live in far-flung parts of the Highlands, a branch newsletter is distributed quarterly to all members.

Those nearer home enjoy a programme of social activities second to none, including visits to places like the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh, and fund-raising events like a booze-cruise down Loch Ness.

Speakers, both from inside the branch and outside, are invited to give a short talk on subjects as wide-ranging as the life story of a wartime Spitfire pilot, the workings of an antique dealer, and the duties of the RNLI.

A highlight last year was the celebration of the Trafalgar dinner, in Inverness Town House at the invitation of the City Provost.

Members also attend a number of ceremonial and memorial

events, an example of which was the recent service in the Old Parish Church, Wick, in memory of the men who died in HMS Exmouth, which went down off the coast near Wick in January, 1940.

The service attracted hundreds, from all parts of the UK, the US and New Zealand.

Closer to home was a church service and rededication ceremony in a churchyard near Inverness at the restored tomb of Neil Smith, assistant Naval surgeon, who attended to Nelson after he was fatally wounded on board HMS Victory at Trafalgar.

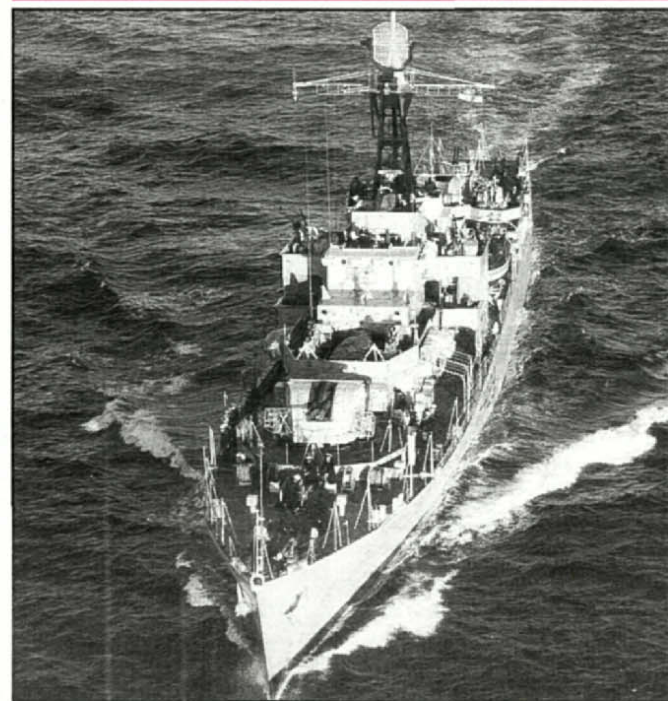
Members took delivery of a top-notch branch standard in October, which they had blessed prior to it being paraded at a branch standard dedication ceremony in Stirling, and later at the Remembrance Parade in Inverness.

Plans are under way for a formal branch standard dedication ceremony to take place in the summer.

In the meantime they extend a warm welcome to visitors and to new recruits, who should contact S/M Mike Bull on 01463 782742, or Gordon Ross on 01463 237461.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 1930 in the Royal British Legion.

£50 PRIZE PUZZLE



The sleek lines of our mystery ship in the November edition were those of HMS Saintes.

The winner of the £50 prize for identifying her was Norman Crockett, of Darlington, Co Durham.

This month's mystery ship saw service in the final year of the war, including runs with Gibraltar convoys, and she was not broken up until the 1970s. Can you name her? The cor-

rect answer wins another £50.

Complete the coupon and send it to Mystery Picture, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Coupons giving correct answers will go into a prize draw to establish a winner.

Closing date for entries is February 11, 2002. More than one entry can be submitted, but photocopies cannot be accepted. Do not include anything else in your envelope: no correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned.

The winner will be announced in our March edition. The competition is not open to Navy News employees or their families.

Naval Quirks

THE MONITOR "EREBUS" WAS NEVER VERY FAST AVERAGING ABOUT 11 1/2 KNOTS...



... BUT ON ONE MEMORABLE OCCASION WHILE ROUNDING THE CAPE IN '42, THE CURRENT AGAINST HER WAS SO STRONG...



... SHE ENDED UP BEING FORCED BACKWARDS AT TWO KNOTS!



SUSPICIOUS CRAFT AHEAD - INCREASE SPEED TO MINUS ONE KNOT!



MYSTERY PICTURE 83

Name

Address

My answer



Medal ribbon error persists

'Look ahead' is message to PROs

LOOKING ahead, rather than dwelling on past glories, was the keynote of a lively meeting of RNA Area public relations officers at HQ in London last month.

While Secretary Capt Bob McQueen reported a highly-successful six months – in which lobbying for respect for maritime war graves had produced “very nearly all we asked for” – he laid special emphasis on the RNA's hard-hitting critique of proposed changes to compensation arrangements and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, reported in our November edition – “we are fighting for the pensions of future personnel.”

RNA Communications and PR Adviser Commodore Barry Leighton invited Charles Mills, of Two Four Productions, along to discuss the needs of broadcasters – and he highlighted the different needs of regional TV and radio stations.

Wallace.

“He is in good company. The RNA national standard bearer is seen in the 1997 Handbook with the same mistake.”

Mr Wallace said the medals office at the Office of the Director Naval Reserves was informed of this mistake some years ago, and they promised the situation would be rectified.

This was done after contacting the Army Medals Office, which is the lead office for all matters on medals, and which confirmed that a mistake had been made.

But a number of such combinations had been issued in the period before the mistake was discovered, and anyone who has the wrong ribbon for the RFR medal can contact the Director of Naval Reserves Medal Office or obtain the correct ribbon from military tailors.

The Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service medal is now no longer being issued, added Mr Wallace.

MEMBERS of the Royal Naval Association may be wearing medals with the incorrect ribbon.

According to Ron Wallace, of HMS President, members of the Association can sometimes be seen on official duties with the Royal Fleet Reserve medal (RFR) complete with ribbon for the Royal Naval Reserve.

The mistake originated at the Medals Office of the Director Naval Reserves, said Mr Wallace. In a recent edition of *Navy*

News, a member is seen – through no fault of his own – with the RFR medal suspended from the blue, white and green ribbon which should be worn with the RNR Long Service medal.

The correct ribbon for the RFR – “the only long service award with a ring, the others being on a straight bar,” said Mr Wallace – is coloured red, white and blue.

“The person in the *Navy News*, an excellent standard-bearer, is not the only person to be shown on parade wearing this combination of medals and ribbons,” said Mr



● Dougie Cunningham and Ron Brewis hold the model of HMS Malacolite.

Model ship sparks reunion

AN EXHIBITION on the Navy at Sheppey has brought together two crew members of a World War II trawler after almost 60 years.

Model builder and crew member Ron Brewis, and crew member Dougie Cunningham, met up at the exhibition for the first time since they were in HMS Malacolite in 1942.

The model, built by Ron and on show at Sheerness Library, brought back memories for Dougie, so a meeting was arranged.

The model of the Malacolite, a 248-ton trawler hired by the Admiralty as a mine-sweeper for the duration of the war, is now owned by the Imperial War Museum, Ron having sold it some time ago.

But the museum lent it to the Sheppey Heritage Trust for this exhibition.

Standard bearers all set to compete

THE NO 4 Area and Open/Closed Standard Bearers competition will be held at Sand Bay Holiday Village, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare on March 16.

Closing date for entries – which must be on the official entry form – is January 15.

For more details, contact S/M Richard Debenham, 148, Chancellors Way, Beacon Hill, Exeter EX4 9DX, telephone 01392 467765.



● Members of Peel branch, in the Isle of Man, gather at the tomb of Capt Quilliam following a service in his honour at Kirk Arbory.

Trafalgar hero is remembered

ONE of the forgotten heroes of Trafalgar, who is honoured by the people of the Isle of Man, is Capt John Quilliam.

As First Lieutenant of HMS Victory at the battle, he steered the ship into action on October 21, 1805.

And when the ship's steering gear was shot away, he completed an emergency repair under heavy fire for which he was commended.

Battle done, Capt Quilliam headed back to Ireland for a more peaceful life.

He became a member of the Manx government and put the skills he learnt in the Navy to good use by improving the design of the

boats of the Peel herring fleet.

Quilliam died in 1829.

Annually, on the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, a special service, organised by the Peel branch, is held at Kirk Arbory, where Capt Quilliam is buried.

The service, always well attended, was conducted this year by former Royal Navy chaplain the Revd Gerry Hurst, who served in the Navy for 16 years.

One shipmate sadly missed this year was the late Terry O'Grady, former branch secretary.

On past occasions, when no bugler was available to sound the Last Post, Terry would stand in and give the Bosun's Call.

Setting standard

HAVANT branch have dedicated their new standard during a service at St Faith's Church in the town.

The new standard replaced one which had served two Havant branches well for over 50 years.

The service was conducted by the Revd David Gibbons, branch chaplain, and it attracted 18 standards and a congregation of about 60 guests and shipmates.

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bugler Dave Nevatte of the Royal Marines Band, Portsmouth, who added the necessary touch of musical excellence to the proceedings.

Though the weather was poor,

the parade was handled with aplomb by S/M Fred Flood, the chairman of Area 3.

On completion of the parade, the standard bearers were inspected by the Mayor of Havant, Cllr Ron Bellinger, while Area 3 National Council member S/M Rita Lock (Gosport) also attended.

At a reception, the cake-cutting ceremony was performed by branch president Cllr David Farrow, ex-Royal Marines, assisted by Miss Georgina Burgess, the youngest cadet from TS Active.

The old standard will be laid up at a private ceremony.

Teak seat is unique

MEMENTOES of great battleships of the past can turn up in some unexpected settings and take on a life of their own.

Take, for example, an elegant garden seat, featured in *The Woodworker* magazine, and made from the timber of HMS Nelson.

Made from teak battens used to hold shells firmly in place in the magazine room of Nelson, the well-seasoned wood was made into a seat following plans published in

The Woodworker in the 1940s.

Old Nelsonians will be pleased to know the battens were put to such good use when the warship was broken up at Ward's in Fife.

Their policy was to encourage craftsmen to assist in demolition work and strip out a ship's timber, usually at weekends, which was then sold at a modest cost.

The craftsman who built the seat was fortunate – he stripped out enough wood to build a garage.



● A picture of HMS Warspite on the rocks, commissioned by a local member of the Brighton and Hove Royal Marines Association, has been presented to the Queen Alexandra Hospital/Home for Disabled ex-Servicemen in Worthing. Harry Simmons (pictured) accepted the picture on behalf of the home as he was a Yeoman of Signals in Warspite during the war. The picture now hangs in the Day Room.



ROYAL NAVAL MUSEUM PORTSMOUTH Appointment of Four Trustees

The Trustees of the Royal Naval Museum are seeking four people, with a developed interest in the Royal Navy, to join the Board of Trustees from March 2002. Ideally, candidates should have experience/knowledge of one or more of the following areas: (a) charitable fundraising to enable major development and to enhance the Museum's income, (b) naval developments in the 20th Century, (c) be a senior serving, or recently retired, naval officer, civil servant or member of a government agency, (d) education and life-long learning, (e) financial & corporate planning expertise.

One of the appointees must also be a senior retired Naval officer of Flag Rank who would be expected to put his name forward as one of the candidates for the position of Chairman of the Board when the current Chairman retires later in 2002.

The position of Chairman is most important, particularly in liaison with Ministry of Defence and the Navy Board, as a principle objective of the trustees is to implement Phase II of the Museum's major development, which will centre on the Twentieth Century Navy. This will be a major innovation within the Historic Dockyard Portsmouth Site as a whole and complements the other famous attractions including *Mary Rose*, *HMS Victory*, and *HMS Warrior* (1864). The Board, and particularly its Chairman, are working with the other attractions to enhance the long term potential, and viability, of the Site as an international focus of Maritime Heritage.

This is undoubtedly a rewarding appointment for someone with a keen interest in the wide span of Royal Naval heritage.

These are voluntary unpaid part-time appointments.

The Museum is an equal opportunity employer and committed to the principle of appointments being made on merit and subject to independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

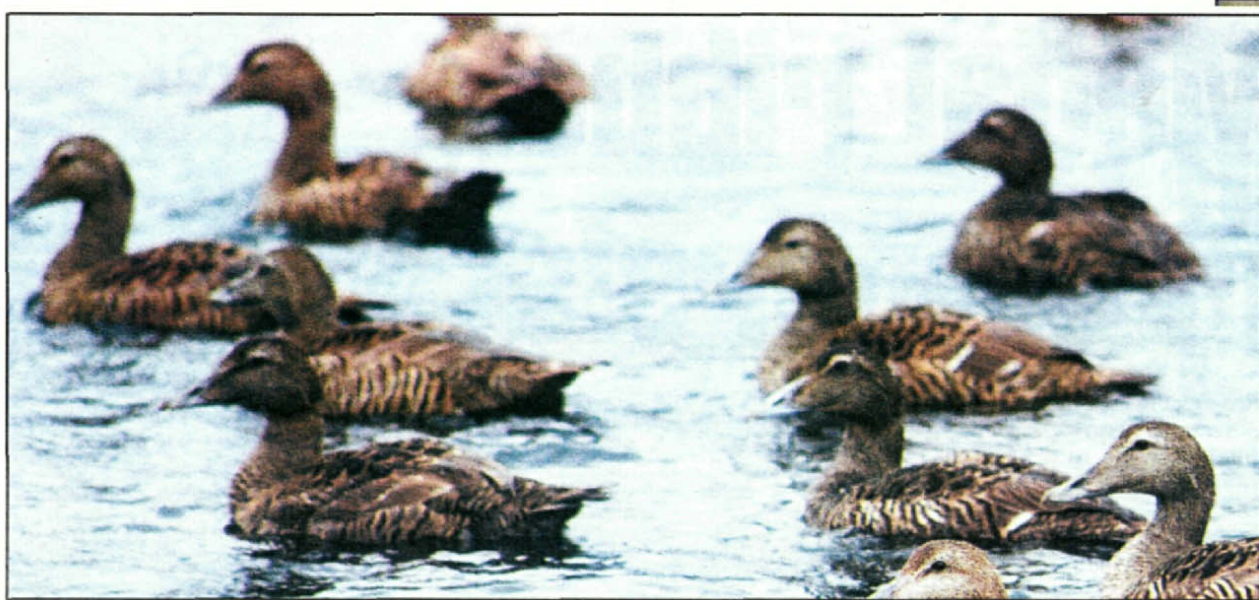
Requests for application forms and further details should be made in writing (Quoting Ref. NN) to:

The Administrator, Royal Naval Museum, HM Naval Base (PP66), Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3NH

to arrive no later than 7 January 2002 and completed applications should be returned by 18 January 2002

It is possible to nominate someone other than yourself; if doing so please state clearly this when requesting the application form

Elusive eider duck nests discovered by chance at bus stop in Faslane



Birds thrive at submarine base

WILDLIFE is thriving beside the nuclear submarines at Clyde Naval Base – and some of the colonies of birds have confounded the experts.

Constable John Simpson, Wildlife Liaison Officer for Faslane and the RN Armaments Depot at nearby Coulport, said the bases support a richer diversity of flora and fauna than many nature reserves, and that there are two particular success stories.

The first is the presence of eider ducks, and the bizarre discovery of their nests.

The ducks were first spotted in the Clyde estuary in the early 1900s, and up to 20,000 are around in the winter – but no one could find a single nest in the area until a base worker dropped a bus pass.

"I gave an environmental presentation at Coulport and mentioned the fact no one knew where the eider ducks' nests were," said John.

"People, including the field scientists and ornithologists, had been searching for decades with no luck.

"One guy went home and chatted to his wife about it that evening, and she said that when she had been at the bus

stop in the naval base she had dropped her bus pass.

"When she looked in the shrubbery beside the path, there was a duck staring back at her, and she thought it may have been an eider.

"We checked, and we found 81 nests crammed into a relatively small area, about 100 yards by 30 yards – the highest density of breeding eiders in the UK.

"That makes Faslane one of the most significant sites for the species when breeding. The experts couldn't believe it – normally they had to go to remote offshore islands in boats, and here they are nesting in the base by the footpaths."

The other success story is the presence of a common gullery which is 'regionally significant'.

"There is the largest number of breeding common gulls anywhere in Central Scotland, primarily down by the storage in the high security area around the submarines," said John.

"It is exceptionally unusual because they should be up in the mountains, breeding on lochs and reservoirs.

"To find them in the middle of what is essentially an industrial environment is unheard of."

One factor in favour of the birds is the

fact that the bases are secure – there are no casual walkers to disturb them.

"A lot of things we didn't know existed at one time," said John. "There it was under our noses. It was a classic case of taking things for granted."

A stringent pest-control strategy – rats and mink have an awkward habit of chewing cables – also removes some predators from the equation.

Coulport is even more interesting than Faslane in wildlife terms, said John, a former countryside ranger.

"It has the greatest number of species recorded on any Royal Navy site in Great Britain," he said.

"We have some exceptionally rare birds there, like hen harriers, black grouse, and we are setting up an osprey platform.

"There is something in the region of 90 species which breed here, which is exceptionally high when you think it is not very big."

John's job is to ensure staff at the establishments comply with wildlife laws and rural legislation, an initiative given impetus by a former Naval Base Commander, Commodore Richard Lord.

Among the other natural highlights are oystercatchers which normally nest on the ground, but at Faslane have taken the unusual behavioural step of nesting on roofs and carrying their young to the ground at the appropriate time.

Plants also flourish in near-pristine habitats, and certain areas – such as Lochan Ghlas at Coulport between April and June – are ruled off limits at particular times of the year to allow birds to nest in peace and flowers to seed.

The bases have become magnets for wildlife and environmental groups in the Clyde Valley, who undertake organised visits to see the wealth of wildlife which lives side by side with Trident missile submarines.

For more details on the subject, contact Constable Simpson on 93254 ext 6425.

● Eiders swim at peace in Faslane Naval Base (top of page) while a single duck guards a nest by the side of a footpath in the base (centre right). Common gulls (top right, pictured with young) also find a secure home in the submarine base, as do oystercatchers (left, also with young), which nest on the roofs of buildings at both Faslane and Coulport. Plant life also flourishes in the RN establishments on the Clyde estuary, including the colourful northern marsh orchid (right).

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Dave Husbands.



Next month: Flora and fauna find security among Royal Navy bombs and boats

Miscellaneous



WALL SHIELDS OF ROYAL NAVY SHIPS



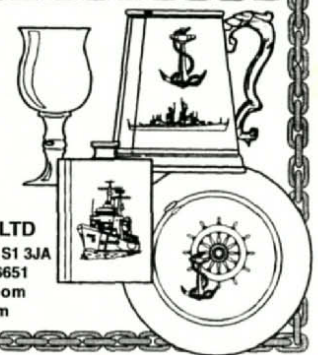
Hand painted on wooden base 6in x 7in
£28.10 + £1.40 UK Postage.
 REDUCED PRICES given for orders of 6 or more
 SPECIAL PRICES given for 10, 25, 50 and 100
 CRESTED TIES TO YOUR OWN SPECIAL DESIGN
 (minimum 36)
 specialist experience over 85 years
C.H.MUNDAY LTD
 Oxford House, 8 St Johns Road
 St Johns, Woking, Surrey GU21 1SE
 Telephone: 01483 771588 Fax: 01483 756627
 email: enquiries@chmunday.co.uk

LOST YOUR MEDALS?

WE CAN REPLACE THEM NOW - WW1 TO PRESENT DAY
 IN FULL SIZE AND MINIATURE
WE MOUNT MEDALS TO WEAR - COURT OR SWING STYLE
PROFESSIONALLY SEWN
 AVAILABLE NOW THE GENERAL SERVICE CROSS,
VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND MARITIME SERVICE MEDAL
 SAE FOR DETAILS & REPLACEMENT MEDALS LIST
TOAD HALL MEDALS
 NEWTON FERRERS, Nr PLYMOUTH, DEVON. PL8 1DH.
 Tel 01752 872672. Fax 01752 872723.
 e-mail: chrissy@toadhallmedals.com www.toadhallmedals.com

Wentworth the Pewterers

High quality pewter tankards, hip flasks, goblets, plates and much more. Engraved with Ship's Crests, Badges and Logo's to your own designs.



Full colour brochure.
A R WENTWORTH (SHEFFIELD) LTD
 Tankard House, 25 Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1 3JA
 Tel: 0114 272 5676 Fax: 0114 272 6651
 email: sales@wentworth-pewter.com
 website: www.wentworth-pewter.com

"The Garter Company"

Ladies Garters Designed to Suit All occasions
 Send your loved one a garter, for Valentines, Anniversaries, birthdays or special occasions.
 Ideal as gifts for Ladies' Night's and other Mess Functions

For details contact:

The Garter Company
 www.thegartercompany.com

E-mail: russelsidney@thegartercompany.com
 or: phone 00 44 (0) 23 9264 5752 fax: 00 44 (0) 23 9261 4912
 or write to: The Garter Company, 23 Privett Place,
 Gosport, Hants PO12 3SG
 Catalogues and Cd's available of all designs and more!



LOST MEDALS
 REPLACED IN RECORD TIME
 FULL SIZE & MINIATURE
 3 DAY MOUNTING SERVICE
 WRITE OR PHONE FOR QUOTATION
RAYMOND D. HOLDICH
 Trafalgar Square Collectors Centre
 7 Whitcomb Street
 London WC2H 7HA
 TEL 020 7930 1979 FAX 020 7930 1152
 e mail: rdhmedals@aol.com
 www.rdhmedals.com

FRAMED COLOUR PRINTS



Over 400 available
 Print laminated with canvas texture film
 to resemble an original oil painting
 size 8"x16" for £35 plus P&P
 For list please send SAE to:
 SEART, 5 THE CHASE, GOSPORT,
 HANTS PO12 3TD

EMBROIDERED BADGES CUMMERBUNDS, TIES
 Cumberbunds - Silk £25, Polyester £17.50
 Cap Tallies, and Baseball Caps
 All made to order.
Ross Art Embroidery
 7 Wall Road, Gwinear,
 Hayle, Cornwall TR27 5HA.
 Tel/Fax: 01736 850724

PURE NOSTALGIA
 Individually hand-built waterline
 presentation model of your ship,
 perhaps long gone but never forgotten.
 Contact for further details:
 Ron Hughes,
 Model Shipwright,
 Feldemore, Bacton, Stowmarket
 Suffolk, IP14 4LF
 01449 781741

EMBROIDERED
 Sweaters, Sweatshirts
 Polo shirts, Badges
PRINTED
 Teeshirts, Sweatshirts,
 Badges, Coffee mugs
 And lots more, all from one supplier
 No artwork or setting up costs on majority of goods
 High quality, competitive prices, prompt delivery.
 BFPO tax-free service Send for our new price list:
 Reynold Sports 12-13 Crofton Close,
 Allenby Business Village, Lincoln LN3 4NT
 Tel: 01522 513333
 Fax: 01522 530383

Rumney Pottery
 High quality
 ceramic
 plates and
 mugs
 200 year old
 establishment
 Newport Road, Rumney,
 Cardiff CF3 4FE
 Tel & Fax: (029) 20 778096
 Email: martyn@rumneypottery.co.uk

!WANTED!
H.M.S. Bell's
 Name Boards &
 Crests, Tread Plates
Thomas Kerrigan,
 12 Summerhill North,
 St Lukes, Cork IRL
00 353 214501573
 Collector in UK monthly

GOLD WIRE BADGE Co

GOLD WIRE BADGES-ALL SHIPS ETC	£11.00
WHITE LEATHER GAUNTLETS	£24.00
STANDARD CARRIERS	£30.00
STANDARD CARRIERS MADE TO ORDER	£35.00
GOLD CORDS 8FT FOR STD	£20.00
STANDARD CARRYING CASE	£32.00
BRASS INSERTS	£12.00
WHITE COTTON GLOVES	£4.00
WHITE COTTON MASONIC GLOVES	£5.50
NAVY / BLACK BERTS 6 1/2 - 7 1/2	£7.50
NAVY / BLACK BERTS 6 1/2 - 7 1/2	£5.00
R.N. & NAVAL DIVISION TIES	£10.50
R.N. BOW TIES	£10.50
BLACK CLIP-ON TIES	£5.00
R.N. BUTTONS LARGE £1.60 SMALL £1.50	£18.00
R.N., R.M., R.F.A. WALL PLAQUES 7"x6"	£60.00
PACE STICKS	£23.00
FRIDGE MAGNETS	£2.00
KEY RINGS	£1.50
CAR NUMBER PLATES WITH YOUR OWN REG AND WENSIGN, RM, AIRBORNE BADGE	£20.30
BRASS CAR GRILLE BADGE, R.N.A.	£10.00
EMBROIDERED GARMENTS	
WINTER BLOUSONS, BLACK, R.N.A., R.M.	£22.00
NAVY BLUE VARECK JUMPERS: R.N.A., R.M.	£12.00
WHITE PILOT SHIRTS R.N.A., R.M.	£12.25
SWEATSHIRTS R.N.A., R.M., NAVY, GREY.	£15.50
Officers Cap Badges	£12.00
Gold Sword Knot	£23.00
Leather Sword Belts	£70.00
Sword Bags	£30.00

SEND FOR FREE LIST
 all prices include P&P
 11, Dalehead Drive, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. OL28TJ
 Tel/Fax: 01706 846648
 www.thegoldwirebadge.co.uk
 E-mail: sales@thegoldwirebadge.co.uk

FLAGS GLOBAL

QUALITY HAND SEWN
 NATIONAL FLAGS & ENSIGNS.
 ECONOMY SFT X 3FT FLAGS £7.99
 POLES, TABLE FLAGS & BUNTING
 FREE COLOUR BROCHURE
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
 ELPEES ENTERTAINMENTS
 Unit C6 Laser Quay, Medway City Est.
 Rochester, Kent ME2 4HU
 Tel: 01634 297708 Fax: 01634 297709
 www.elpees-entertainments.co.uk

To advertise your business call
023 9272 5062
 Sarah Jacobs
023 9272 4226
 Lyn Hodge

TIES, BADGES & PLAQUES

By Mail Order
 SHIPS/SQUADRONS/REGIMENTS/CLUB
 HM Services and custom-made for Clubs,
 Bands, Choirs, etc. Blazer buttons, medals,
 ribbons & sundries
 Please send SAE for lists
THE HERALDIC CO. (GB) NN
 Over Briar, Beech Well Lane,
 Edge End, Coleford, Glos. GL16 7HA
 Tel/Fax: 01594 832200
 email: pam.lewis@totalise.co.uk
 www.theheraldiccompany.co.uk

Freefall Adventures

SKYDIVING COURSES IN FLORIDA
 Freefall Adventures, Florida are happy to
 offer Military Discounted Skydiving Courses for
 beginner to advanced students in beautiful
 Sebastian, Florida. Our Skydiving School is
 British owned and operated. Located on the
 east coast of Florida, this tropical paradise is a
 great place for your skydiving vacation.
 Come join us for extreme fun in the sun.
 Contact us for further details
Freefall Adventures, Florida
 400 W. Airport Drive, Sebastian, Florida 32958, USA
 Tel: (561) 388 0550-Fax: (561) 581 4468
 Email: skydiveMik@aol.com
 www.ffadventures.com

EMBROIDERED LEISUREWEAR

Wide range of quality garments.
 Low minimum order.
 Full colour brochure.
 Caps & Printed garments supplied.
 Free embroidery proof. No origination charge.
 Embroidered Polos from £6.00ea, Sweats £8.00ea,
 T-shirts £5.00ea.
BANANA MOON WORKSHOP
 48, Old Lane, Birkenshaw, Bradford,
 BD11 2JX
 Tel: 01274 688103 Fax: 01274 652524
 www.bananamoon.co.uk

The Gift Shop

BRITANNIA ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE
ROYAL NAVY TIE SPECIAL PRICE..... £ 8.50
 BOSUNS CALL: Brass & Copper with chain only £ 6.95
 CUFF LINKS: RN Crown, White Ensign, RM, BRNC..... pair £ 7.95
 POLO SHIRT: RN Badge S,M,L,XL..... £ 15.95 Submariners gift brooch £ 9.95
 EMBROIDERED BADGES: White Ensign, Royal Navy, Union Jack ea £ 2.95
 LAPEL BADGES: White Ensign, Navy Crown, Royal Marines, BRNC, Sailor,
 Britannia, Submariner, RN Anchor, WRNS, and many others..... £ 1.75
 TIES: RN, MN £ 9.00 FAA, Submariners and others..... £ 11.50
 Prices include P & P. Cheques payable to 'SODEXHO LTD'. Send SAE for more detailed list.
COLLEGE SHOP, BRNC, DARTMOUTH, DEVON, TQ6 0HJ.
 TEL: 01803 677118 FAX: 01803 834797 (Credit Cards Welcome)

Rumney Pottery

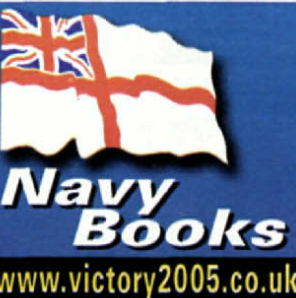
High quality ceramic plates and mugs
 Examples of work for Associations,
 Anniversaries, Commissioning, Sailing
 Clubs, Centenaries etc. All to do with our
 Naval tradition and the sea.
 Each item is hand embossed with inlaid
 glasses and enamels using a unique
 method of production.
 We like to accept orders for
 50, 100 & 200 off of items in a run.



200 year old establishment
 Newport Road, Rumney,
 Cardiff CF3 4FE
 Tel & Fax: (029) 20 778096
 Email: martyn@rumneypottery.co.uk

THE EASTERN SERVICE MEDAL

This superb die-struck
 commemorative medal
 is available in Full Size
 & Miniature to all who
 served in the Near
 Middle & Far East.
 Send s.a.e. for your application form today.
DPS Awards, P.O. Box 6961
Bromsgrove, B61 8LA



www.victory2005.co.uk
 Navy News Own Products
 If you are not satisfied with one of our own products
 sold through this paper, simply return it to us unused
 within 14 days and we will replace it free of charge or
 issue a full refund (including postage)
 This guarantee does not affect your statutory rights

!WANTED!

Iron Cannon
Thomas Kerrigan,
 12 Summerhill North,
 St Lukes, Cork IRL
00 353 214501573
 Collector in UK monthly

Modern Cards

Special cards
 for someone special
 We belong to the
 Modern Cards
 Code of Practice
 You can now buy and send your
 greetings cards, flowers and
 gifts for all occasions on-line.
 Send your special greeting from
 anywhere in the world, just visit
 our new website.
 All items posted guaranteed 1st
 class recorded delivery to your
 specified date anywhere in the UK
www.moderncards.com



Click on - Click on

www.forcesdiscount.com
 Available 24/7
 Direct web links & E-mail links.
 Discounts on Services & Products
 For HM Forces + Attached Civilians
www.forcesdiscount.com

REGIMENTAL TIES, blazer
 Badges, Cuff-Links, Buttons,
 Medals, Cap Badges, Militaria.
 £2.00 for list. Cairncross (Dep. NN),
 31, Belle Vue St., Filey, N. Yorks
 YO14 9HU.
www.cairnson.freeserve.co.uk

Military Mobiles

Personalise your phone the military way
0905 008 10 15

ROYAL NAVY 310014	HM15 310013	310040	Per Mare Per Terram 323492
Ark Royal 323440	HM5 310087	310056	SEA HOLF 310800
HM5 318616	Royal Marines 323515	310064	309744
HM5 310082	SUB 318628	323477	THE Royal Air Force 309642
HM5 323446	801 318611	310067	ARMY 323509

www.militarymobiles.com

Anchors Away	101541	Life On Ocean Waves	101581
Globe And Laurel	101892	Marines Hymn	101560
Hornpipe	101577	Rule Britannia	101563
Land Hope And Glory	101879	Sailing	101881
Last Post	101558	Sands Of Kuwait	101907

Order a logo or tone for your Nokia. Got a friend or relative in the forces? Send them a logo or tone for Christmas.
 More logos and tones are constantly being added, visit our web site for the full list. Problems? Email: TheSarge@militarymobiles.com
 Calls cost £1.50 per minute. Average call is 2 minutes. Other phone models supported soon, group icons supported soon.

Lingerie & Nightwear

~ Pure Silk ~
 Large range of sizes & colours
 UK made & affordably priced
 Tissue wrapped & gift boxed
 Worldwide delivery
www.silkclassics.com

ATSL

Is your PC broken?...
 Has your printer let you down?...
 ...we won't
 For all your technical support
 contact us now on - **07765677514**
 or Fax us on **023 9272 4170**
assuredtechnical.com

Joys Roses & Flowers

For all occasions / Births / Birthdays / Anniversaries / To say I love you
 Get Well Soon / and Happy New Year
 12 Roses Red or Yellow or Mixed £14.00
 24 Roses Red or Yellow or Mixed £19.00
 Mixed Bouquet from £12.00 - £20.00
 40 Freesia & Ferns £15.00

Valentines Day

Inclusive Dates - 6th February to 16th February
 12 Roses Red / Yellow / Mixed £20.00
 24 Roses Red / Yellow / Mixed £30.00
 40 Freesia & Ferns plus 1 Red Rose £17.95
 Mixed Bouquets / No Roses £12.00 - £20.00

Mothers Day Specials

50 Blooms - All Pink or Pink & White Bouquet & Gyps & Ferns £20.00
 50 Blooms - All Yellow or Yellow & Burnt Orange & Gyps & Ferns £20.00
 50 Blooms - All White or White & White & Gyps & Ferns £20.00
 As Above Colour Range/No Roses Only In £17.50 & Gyps & Ferns £12.00 - 17.50
 40 Freesia & Ferns £15.00

Hot Line Number **01481 246708**
 All C/Cs Accepted / Postal Orders / Cheques / Euro Cheques Made Payable
 To: JOYS ROSES & FLOWERS, Flamingo, St. Sampsons, Guernsey, C.I. GY2 4WB



Education

A Navy News Advertising Feature



BOUNDARY OAK SCHOOL

www.boundaryoak.co.uk

ROCHE COURT, WICKHAM ROAD,
FAREHAM. PO17 5BL

Co-educational Nursery & Preparatory School (Day & Boarding)

Nursery school: rising 3-5 years

Preparatory Department: 5-13 years

GIRLS' BOARDING AVAILABLE

Family atmosphere * Large Sports Grounds * Strong Forces Link

For full details of Scholarships and a Prospectus

Please telephone: Fareham (01329) 280955.

Registered Charity Number 307346



● Royal Marine Cpl Cooper takes pupils from Mayville High School up the main staircase at the Royal Marines Museum in Eastney.

Boys welcomed to senior school

THIS year the examination for entrance to Mayville's Senior School is a new experience in that, for the first time, Mayville will be welcoming boys into the Senior School.

Long known for its excellent teaching of girls of a wide ability range in the senior section, the school has decided to extend this opportunity to boys as well.

Mayville teaches boys and girls in separate, parallel classes for the core subjects, but they mix for subjects such as History, Geography, Music and Drama.

Certainly the experience of boys in the Junior School shows that Mayville boys are keen on sport, and there will be plenty of opportunities for an interest in individual and team sports to be met for both boys and girls.

The school is also strong in creative arts, whilst the excellent GCSE results show the high level of teaching experienced by pupils, regardless of ability.

The school has a renowned Dyslexia Unit, which supports pupils with this particular difficulty. Mayville is proud of its link with the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines. Situated close to Portsmouth Naval Base, our school is open from 8am to 6pm, 50 weeks per year, and accepts boys and girls from 2-16 years.

The Entrance Examination dates are shown on the school advertisement on page 33. A visit can be arranged prior to this, and the school would be happy to forward the relevant forms to you and send a prospectus. Please call 023 9273 4847.

THE BIGGEST DECISION OF THEIR LIFE.....

.....YOU'LL EVER MAKE
KELLY COLLEGE

11+ Entrance Assessment Tests
Saturday, 2nd February, 2002

For further details apply to:

**The Registrar, Kelly College,
Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0HZ**

Tel: 01822 813153; Fax: 01822 612050
Registrar: KirwinC@kellycollege.com
http://www.kellycollege.com

A Registered Charity which exists to provide education.
Charity Regd. No. 306716



St. Lawrence College

Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7AE

Nursery & Junior Schools
(3 - 11) years IAPS
Girls and Boys

Middle & Senior Schools
(11 - 18) years HMC
Day and Boarding



- Close Pastoral Care in a Family Setting • Small Classes (average 15) • Individual Attention • High Examination Pass Rates • 98% University Entrance • Excellent Facilities
- Wide Range of Cultural Activities • Strong Christian Ethos

SPECIAL FEES PACKAGE FOR SERVICE FAMILIES
Services Boarding Allowance + 10% of fees

For full details and a prospectus, or to arrange a visit, do contact us:

Tel: (01843) 592680 Fax: (01843) 851123

e-mail: Headmaster.SLC@diap.pipex.com

www.st-lawrence-college.com

St. Lawrence College exists to provide education for children. Charity Number: 307921

A big reputation

KELLY College, probably the best small school of its type in the country and one of the leading boarding schools in the south-west, provides a high-quality, well-balanced education. It enjoys an established reputation for good academic results and for its cultural and sporting achievements.

The sporting record of the school is very strong; Kelly has a national reputation in swimming, rugby and athletics, while hockey and netball teams have achieved county and regional success.

At the same time, we are particularly proud of our music and drama. One of Kelly's strengths is the range and diversity of its societies - recent successes in public speaking, essay and debating competitions confirm this.

A co-educational secondary school of about 370 pupils aged 11-18 years, Kelly offers all the facilities of a larger school, while retain-

ing the advantages in the individual care and class size of a smaller school. The junior school is a co-educational nursery and junior school for a further 140 pupils aged 2½ to 11 years. The Junior School shares many of the facilities of the main school.

Entry to the Senior School is by examination and/or interview at 11+, 13+ and at Sixth Form level. Academic, Music, Art and All-Rounder Scholarships and Exhibitions are offered annually, and are available at 11, 13 and 16 years.

11+ entry tests will take place at the College on Saturday February 2. Contact the Registrar on 01822 813153/4, 01822 612050 (fax) or Registrar@kellycollege.com for details. Entry to the Junior School is by interview; details should be obtained direct from the Head on 01822 612919.

THE ONLY UK LEADING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OFFERING 20% REMISSION

**OFF BOARDING FEES FOR HM FORCES,
CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN OF SEAFARERS**
Co-ed Boarding & Day 3-19 years (Boarding 6+ years)
A TOP UK SCHOOL FOR GCSE & A-LEVEL RESULTS



We think there are 3 main important points, above all others, that make Queen Ethelburga's your ideal choice as the boarding school for your child.

Firstly we understand the needs of service families and seafarers as we have been servicing their needs for over 80 years. We have experience in ensuring your child will settle well, be confident and successful. Our campus is safe and away from city centre problems. Secondly our boarding facilities are the best in Europe. Every bedroom has direct dial in/out telephone, voice mail, TV/Video (on timer), music centre, hot drink facilities and much more. Many bedrooms are ensuite. Our house parents are friendly and caring. Thirdly we are a **Sunday Times'**

Top UK Senior School for GCSE and A-Level results
UK Top 100 Preparatory School for Academic Results

We have invested over £17m in new facilities and offer a huge range of sports, music, equestrian, and recreational facilities. Over 95% of our A-Level students go on to University. Telephone for a prospectus, video and details of special 20% Remission. (Email: remember@compuserve.com)



QUEEN ETHELBURGA'S COLLEGE
Thorpe Underwood Hall, York. England.

Tel: 08707 42 33 30

Web: www.queenethelburgas.edu

**Easy to
get to by
road, rail & air.
10 minutes
from A1M**

Mayville High School's website is
www.mayvillehighschool.com,
while Kelly College has a site at
www.kellycollege.com

'probably Devon's most significant school'



Blundell's
Founded 1604

11-18 Co-educational Boarding
and Day School
(325 boys and 195 girls)

"an entire education"

**A PREMIER
WESTCOUNTRY
SCHOOL**

now also incorporating
St Aubyn's Preparatory School
Charity No. 1081249

ask for our **New Services Package**

Further details available from Registrars

Mr Peter Klinkenberg Tel: 01884 252543
Mrs Elizabeth Thane Fax: 01884 243232
e-mail: registrars@blundells.org
website: www.blundells.org

Tiverton
Devon
EX16 9DN

Portsmouth High School

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (4-18)

Junior School Entrance Tests: Throughout January - please call for details

Senior School Entrance Tests: Saturday 26th January

- Centre of academic excellence
- Highest levels of achievement in a wide variety of sport, music and drama
- Outstanding personal, social and health education in a caring and nurturing environment
- Competitive and affordable fees
- Excellent information technology provision
- Encouragement of imaginative ideas, exploration and discovery

For further information and a school prospectus, please contact the
Admissions Secretary: ☎ 023 9282 6714 ☎ 023 9281 4814
© admissions@por.gdst.net © www.gdst.net/portsmouthhigh
Financial assistance available in the senior school.

"We offer a safe, structured
and vibrant environment
in which each member
of our community can
flourish and develop."

Peg Hulse, Headteacher.



GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST
Reg. Charity No. 1026057



High school is building for a bright future

LOTS of good things are happening at **Portsmouth High School**.

There is a vision of modernisation – building upon traditional values and translating them into the present era and beyond.

This summer saw the completion of Phase 2 of a £3.2 million building programme where a brand new Performing Arts Centre was created to support the popularity of drama at the school and its introduction as a whole-school curricular subject.

The Hall was comprehensively refurbished to the highest specification and there is a new and enlarged ICT suite along with a dedicated Sixth Form laboratory that has been fully computerised.

As the number 1 school in this area for girls, Portsmouth High School offers the very best in 21st century education.

The public examination results are worthy of celebration and they are a very real tribute to the girls and the quality and professional commitment of the teaching staff.

Behind the headlines of published results girls have recorded many other fine achievements in music, in drama, in sport and in their wide range of extra curricular interests.

As part of the Girls Day School Trust (GDST), Portsmouth High School benefits from being part of a larger group, offering many excellent advantages, one of which is the ability to transfer pupils if there is a family move.

There is a special relationship with The Royal High School, Bath, who are able to offer boarding facilities. This is particularly relevant to our Service families, for whom moving is a regular occurrence.

There are also scholarships available and financial assistance with fees at 11+ entry. Finally, independent single sex education offers the advantages of smaller classes, where girls are uninhibited and able to build confidence without distraction.



● Rebecca Robinson (left) and Karen Mak of Portsmouth High School, with the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Mrs Elaine Baker. The pupils won the junior section of a competition which helps strengthen links between Portsmouth and its twin city, Duisburg, in Germany.

compare the results
contrast the fees
consider



Wellington School



for further details, please contact the Bursar
Cdr. R D Coupe OBE RN
Wellington School, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8NT
01823 668800
Email: admin@wellington-school.org.uk
Reg Charity No 310268 to provide quality education for children

To advertise your school
in the next Navy News
EDUCATION
SUPPLEMENT
please contact the
Advertising Department
on 023 9272 4226

CHILTON CANTELO SCHOOL IMPORTANT

TO: Parents willing to invest £297 (+BSA) per term in their child's future.
FROM: Chilton Cantelo, a small 'family' school (Dorset/Somerset borders) offering a broad first-class education to boys and girls aged 7 - 18.
RE: Further information, please contact us today on (01935) 850555 to arrange a visit.

NEWLANDS

Co-educational day & boarding school
for pupils aged 2½ - 18 years

Quality Education



Academic, Cultural & Sporting Excellence
Fees in line with BSA
High percentage of Forces boarders
Accelerated Learning Centre
Theatre Arts Course
Tel. 01323 490000

Newlands School, Eastborne Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4NP
Fax: 01323 898420 e-mail: newlands1@msn.com
www.newlands-school.com
Charity No 297606

Cumnor House School

Danehill, Sussex RH17 7HT
Co-educational Independent Preparatory School
"Aim high, be kind, dare to be different"



Day 4 to 14 Boarding 8 to 14

- Long record of Academic Excellence
- Strong Tradition of Sport, Music & Drama
- 60 acres of grounds

Please contact the Secretary for further details or to request a prospectus
Tel: 01825 790347 or Fax: 01825 790910 Email: Office@cumnor.co.uk
Web: www.cumnor.co.uk Registered Charity



Mayville High School

'make your mark'

Boys Senior School Entrance Examination – 16th January 2002
Girls Senior School Entrance Examination – 18th January 2002

Please call to book your child's place. Visits to the school are always welcome.
MAYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, 35 ST SIMONS ROAD, SOUTHSEA PO5 2PE **023 9273 4847**

Boys 2-16 YEARS www.mayvillehighschool.com Girls 2-16 YEARS



RYDE SCHOOL with UPPER CHINE

HMC Co-educational. 2½ - 18 years

Prospective parents and their children are warmly invited to our

OPEN MORNING

on Saturday 23 February 2002 from 10.00 to 12 noon

Full details and a prospectus are available from the Admissions Secretary,
Ryde School, Queen's Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 3BE

Tel: 01983 562229 Fax: 01983 564714

Email: school.office@rydeschool.org.uk

Ryde School is a Registered Charity No 307409

SERVICE children's education

Moving back to the UK? Moving Overseas?
Has your child special educational needs?
Considering Boarding School education?
Know about educational changes in the UK?

SCE(UK) for FREE advice and support:
Tel: 01980 618244 Mil: 94344 8244
Fax: 01980 618245 Mil: 94344 8245
email: mod.sce.uk@gt.net





Education

A Navy News Advertising Feature

Continuity is a vital feature

ST LAWRENCE College is a very special community, providing a first-rate education to children from 3 to 18 years.

The Nursery (3-4 years), Junior (4-11), Middle (11-13) and Senior (13-18) Schools are situated on the same, beautiful 150-acre campus.

The College is fully co-educational and is an evangelical Church of England Foundation.

With some 120 children in the Nursery and Junior Schools, and 360 in the Middle and Senior Schools, it is small enough to provide a secure family environment, yet large enough to be challenging and competitive academically, in numerous sports, and in a wide range of social and cultural activities.

It is a happy, structured, caring community with a strong academic and pastoral tradition.

Regular communication with parents is considered vital – as the education of young people has to be a partnership.

In the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools, the system of regular monitoring of pupils' academic progress and behaviour is an important part of school life.

An important feature of life at St Lawrence College is continuity, which serves to put both parents and children at their ease – pupils may start at three years old in our thriving Nursery School and continue their education through the Junior and Middle Schools and on to the Senior School until 18 years old.

This avoids, to a large extent, the trauma of making the transition from primary to secondary school, as the staff, older pupils and buildings are familiar to the children moving up.

Boarders are accepted from the age of seven and some weekly boarding does take place.

Although the Junior School runs independently of the Senior School, it has the unusual advantage of sharing Chapel and Chaplain, the Dining Hall and full medical service with the Senior School – and its pupils can also benefit

from the facilities and expertise of the Senior School, particularly in Design Technology, Science and Sports.

The College benefits greatly from the blend of high-flyers and those of average to above-average ability – but the nurturing of individual potential, whatever form this might take, remains our principal aim.

Personal, spiritual and moral growth must be encouraged, along with intellectual, physical and social development.

Each year an average of 98 per cent of our pupils reach the university of their first or second choice, and most years we have a small group of successful Oxbridge applicants.

Each boy and girl is encouraged and guided to develop individual talents and to learn to balance personal needs with those of a close-knit community, where loyalty and integrity are paramount.

There is a clear accent on service and leadership, on communication skills, on working productively in a team and on healthy social relationships.

The school is ever-changing and the refurbishment is continuous as it reflects the technological changes of our age.

Most recent developments include extensive investment in our Information Technology network, careers centre, indoor heated swimming pool and changing block, the libraries, an Astroturf all-weather pitch with flood-lighting and a multi-gym and fitness centre.

Some scholarships are available at 7, 11, 13 and 16 years for academic 'high flyers', and bursaries are also available for the children of clergy, missionaries and those in the Armed Forces.

Generous sibling discounts are given to parents who have a second or third child attending the school; full details of current fees and conditions are available from the Headmaster's Secretary, or on the College website.

See the College advertisement on page 32 for details of contacting the school.



● Pupils at St Lawrence College develop their culinary skills.

RN bursar welcomed



THE NEW headmaster of Cumnor House School, Sussex, Christian Heinrich, who has just arrived from Summer Fields in Oxford, is pictured greeting Cdr Mark Dickens in front of the newly-built dormitories at the well-established school.

Mark is about to retire from the Royal Navy after 27 years service in submarines and intelligence, recently running the Tomahawk missile targeting centre at the Northwood headquarters.

He is really looking forward to his new role at the same school he and his three sons attended.

Cumnor is a leading day and boarding co-educational prep school. Children begin in the pre-prep at four, and by the time they reach their last two years the vast majority of children board by choice.

Co-education is a fact as well as a philosophy, with boy/girl ratios close to 50:50.

The school values breadth of education. Amongst the academic honours boards nestle the many Art and Music awards and Drama is also of central importance.

Sporting teams are strong – this year's First XI football side is unbeaten – and tours, both girls' and boys' teams, are regular.

Says Christian Heinrich: "Aim high, be kind, and dare to be different" is as close to a school motto as anything.

"We fill Kipling's 'unforgiving minute' brimful and yet remain unpressured in character. Cumnor is a rather special place.

"Mark Dickens and I have many exciting plans for the future and consider ourselves lucky indeed to have joined this thriving school at this juncture."

Cumnor is set in 60 acres of leafy Sussex countryside, bordering the Ashdown Forest, and only 25 minutes from Gatwick. There are excellent road and rail links and a regular coach service to Victoria Station.

Choosing a School?

ISIS
Independent Schools
Information Service

The Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) provides you with up to date information about independent fee paying schools. Phone for a free regional ISIS handbook giving details of schools in the South and West.

Tel: 01736 799250

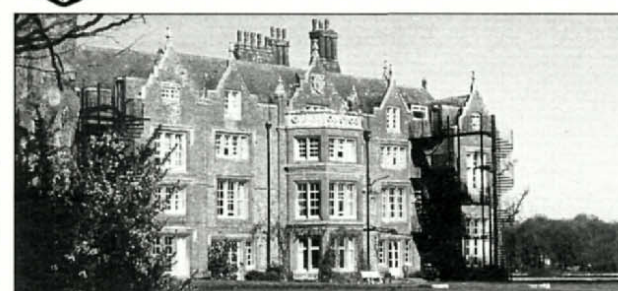
(quoting ref. (NN0102) or write to:
ISIS (South and West),
Trevarrack House, Lelant, St Ives,
Cornwall TR26 3HA



Embley Park School

Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZE

Co-educational Independent Day & Boarding School



Entrance Examinations: 2nd February 2002

DAY 3 – 18 Years BOARDING 9 – 18 Years

- Excellent Sports Hall with spacious grounds
- Caring family atmosphere
- HM Forces bursaries available

Prospectus enquiries welcomed;
Please contact Head's Secretary Tel: 01794-512206 or Fax: 01794 518737

Registered charity existing to educate children

TRINITY SCHOOL



Boarding & day school for boys & girls 3-19 yrs

Trinity School is thriving:

And we want your youngsters to thrive with us

- ◆ Almost £3 million has been spent on new facilities over the last 6 years
- ◆ Small classes ◆ Christian ethos
- ◆ Over 30 extra-curricular activities
- ◆ 20 Advanced Level subjects and GNVQ offered
- ◆ Boarding accommodation with en-suite facilities
- ◆ A friendly, caring environment with individual attention for all pupils
- ◆ Set in beautiful 14 acre grounds, overlooking the English Channel
- ◆ One residential member of staff for every 10 boarders with a real family atmosphere

Bursaries available to forces families

You will be warmly welcomed, when you visit the school. Early application is recommended, to avoid disappointment. Please contact Lesley Cunningham

TRINITY SCHOOL

BUCKERIDGE ROAD • TEIGNMOUTH • DEVON • TQ14 8LY

Tel (01626) 774138 Fax (01626) 771541

e-mail: Trinsc123@aol.com www.trinityschool.co.uk

Member of AEGIS, BSA, ISA, ISIS. Accredited by British Council & ISC



Vocational Education Training Programme

Convert your experience into qualifications

We offer BTEC / EdExcel Qualifications in various engineering disciplines including Telecommunications, to HNC and HND under the above programme and also Certificate & Diploma in Management Studies (CMS & DMS)



A PREFERRED SUPPLIER TO

CAREER TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

The Ministry of Defence working with Courtts Consulting Group plc



The programme is an initiative by Blackburn College to assist members of HM Forces to attain recognised qualifications using the Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) process for a portion of the award.

Interested?

Then contact:

Vocational Education Training Programme, Blackburn College,
East Lancashire Centre of Excellence, Saturn Centre, Challenge Way,
BLACKBURN, Lancashire BB1 5QB

Telephone: 01254-694441

Fax: 01254-679647

Email: vets@blackburn.ac.uk

Blackburn College exists to serve the educational & cultural needs of the local, national and international community



Recruitment & Business



have immediate vacancies for the following:-

HELICOPTER FITTERS AVIONIC FITTERS

to work in 1st & 2nd Line maintenance at Middle Wallop.

Suitable applicants for these positions will have a service background and hold BTEC (or equiv.) in aero/electrical engineering. Experience of Lynx and/or Gazelle helicopters would be an advantage.

Salary range: £15,500 - £18,700 pa.

Applicants should write, fax or 'e' giving full details of experience and qualifications and quoting Ref: NN to:

Mr A Biles, Engineering Manager,

Tel: 01980 674314

FB Heliservices Ltd

Fax: 01264 782439

Middle Wallop, Stockbridge

e-mail: alan.biles@bristow.co.uk

Hampshire

SO20 8DY

FB Heliservices Ltd

An FR Aviation Group Ltd and Bristow Helicopters Ltd
Joint Venture Company

POLICE RECRUITMENT

DEVELOP THE SKILLS
THE POLICE ASSESS.
HOME STUDY PROGRAMME
New Leaf Education
Tel: 01302 859954
PO Box 460, DONCASTER DN4 9XL
www.newleafeducation.co.uk

ILS ENGINEERS, COMMS ENGINEERS, TRAINERS, TECHNICAL AUTHORS

Cole & Sharp Ltd have
vacancies in the South West
and The Midlands.
CV's to:

jobs@coleandsharpe.fsnet.co.uk

01305 851661

To Advertise Telephone

- 023 9272 5062 or

023 9272 4226 NOW!!

Recruitment & Business Opportunities



**LEAVING THE
FULL TIME NAVY...?**

**WHY NOT BE PAID IN YOUR
SPARE TIME?**



**ROYAL NAVAL
RESERVE**

THE TEAM WORKS

www.rnjobs.co.uk/rnr 08456 07 55 55

Please quote "Navy News" when enquiring



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The MOD is introducing a policy of routine notification of reserve service to civilian employers. With effect from 1 July 2001, you will be required to provide full details of your employer on joining the reserve forces and you will then be expected to inform them of your reserve liability. Recruits are normally British or Commonwealth subjects, aged between 16 and 40 (45 for ex-RN), male or female and physically fit.

ITS

NVQ Level 3/4 Management OCR Awards

Can be accredited in part or total (depending on experience and grade)

Via professional discussion.

Recent Middle/Top Management experience.

Recent POLC/DOC/NEBSM

For more information contact:

Inter Training Services Ltd,

77-78a High Street, Fareham, PO16 7AW

FREEPHONE: 0800 975 6250

EMAIL: its.fareham@virgin.net

WEB: www.its-fareham.co.uk

Inter Training Services Ltd will not tolerate discrimination of any kind and seeks to remove any barriers that do not support this principle



Chip Busters

Car Ambulance Ltd

Ambitious Single Minded A Good Communicator with Practical Skills
YOU could be part of one of Britain's fastest growing New business with an expected income of **£50,000 p.a.**

We carry out paint, trim and dent repairs to all makes of car without the need for costly body shop repairs, at the customers house, or garage forecourts

Franchises available now Nationwide

We provide all the skills and knowledge you need as your success is our success

Franchises available from £5,500 to £21,500

CALL TODAY

023 9238 1100

www.chipbusters.com

Noon Products Ltd

Specialists in ready meals

Production Engineer

Applicants to have a good industrial Mechanical/Electrical background. Fixed shift 21K-23K +O/T. Contact Richard Creber on 020 8571 8500 for an informal discussion.

CVs to:-

Noon Products Ltd

Dean Way,

Great Western Industrial Park,

Southall, Middlessex,

UB2 4SB

Are you technically trained?

We are looking for technically trained ex-service personnel to work in our growing heating and plumbing business.

- * vehicle provided
- * short term accommodation provided
- * must be CORGI registered or prepared
- * based in Buckinghamshire

Write or Call:
SURAB LIMITED
01494 520 340

44-47 Oxford Road, High Wycombe,
Bucks, HP11 2EB

TROPHY & ENGRAVING BUSINESS FOR SALE

Established 20 yrs
Main Road Position
Lease Until Feb 2005
Business Web Site
Full Training Available
Equipment Included

OFFERS OVER £35,000

Plus Stock at Valuation

Telephone 01436 678822

JOBSEARCHERS

Ready to move on?
01753 890243

CVs & Job Search

for all Ranks of

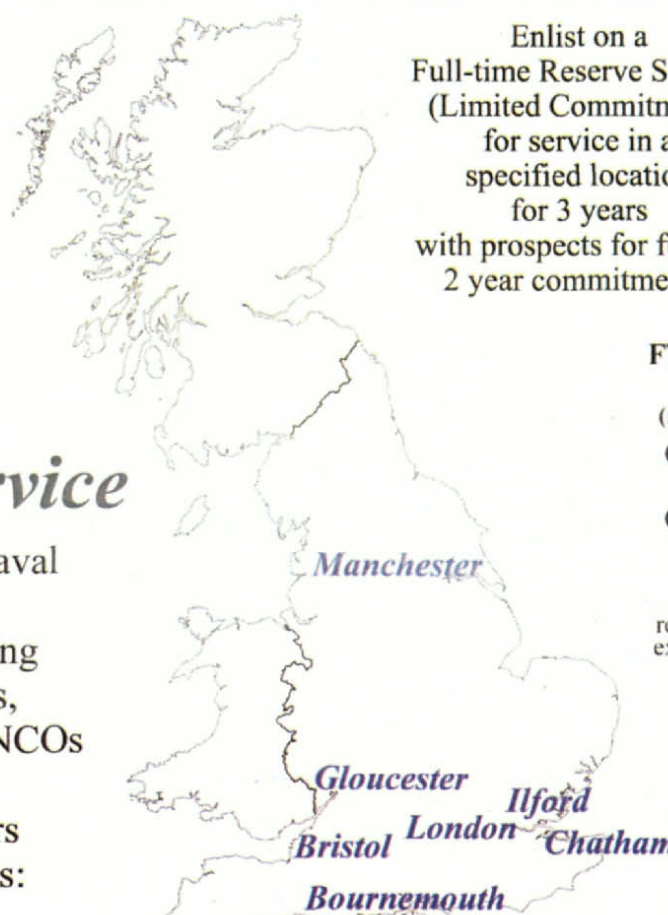
Service Personnel

www.jobsearchers.co.uk



Join the Naval Careers Service

The Director of Naval
Recruiting,
is currently seeking
RN & RM WOs,
Senior Rates and SNCOs
to work as
Careers Advisers
at these locations:



For further information please contact:
DNR SO2 Support - Lt Cdr Phil Dickinson PSTN: 023 9272 7760; Mil 9380 27760

Enlist on a
Full-time Reserve Service
(Limited Commitment)
for service in a
specified location
for 3 years
with prospects for further
2 year commitments.



FTRS rates of pay
apply
(reviewed annually)

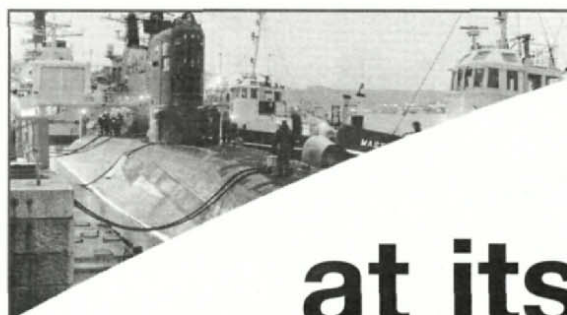
CA3' £22,199.30

rising to

CA1' £28,491.90

Service Pensions
will be abated
so that your total
remuneration will not
exceed your basic pay
on the last day
of regular service.

To advertise your Recruitment & Business Opportunities
Tel: 023 927 25062 or 023 927 24226 www.navynews.co.uk



Engineering at its best.

Trials Manager

Submarine Tactical Weapons

Plymouth

DML Devonport is a diverse engineering business. We are engaged in design, nuclear re-fuelling, overhaul, commissioning and through life logistics support of the Royal Navy's ships and submarines. We have also seen diversification into yacht design, construction and overhaul as well as the overhaul of high-speed trains. A recent development has been the move into the design, integration, installation and through life support of military combat systems. The Company has a steady turnover of £400 million, which is derived from numerous secure and long-term contracts with both the Ministry of Defence and private customers.

The Role:

We are seeking to employ a Trials Manager who will manage all SSN Tactical Weapons System related trials. The role will involve:

- Planning and directing all SSN weapons test and trials programmes for the Tactical Weapons Test Organisation (TWTO). The plans produced should dovetail and support the overall project plan and have addressed the requirements of production, contractor, Warship Support Agency, Submarine IPT, Defence Procurement Agency, and ships' staff. It should also meet DML's Nuclear Safety Standards
- To act as Chairman of the formally constituted Tactical Weapons Test Group (which includes external authorities) to approve and accept onboard testing and setting to work
- To control and regulate the TWTO budget and control the labour costs
- To manage interfaces with the Weapons System Engineering Group

The Candidate:

- Should ideally be a Chartered Engineer with experience of digital signal processing, communications, electronic warfare, above and below water sensors, data management, fire control systems and Weapon Handling/Discharge Systems (first degree in Electronic/Electrical Engineering preferred)
- Previous experience of software intensive defence related projects
- Have had a good understanding of current Royal Navy submarine tactical weapon system fits
- Able to hold DV security clearance
- Strong management and leadership skills
- A good understanding of the MoD (Navy) organisation

Please write with full CV and cover letter to: Debbie McCullough, Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd, Devonport, Plymouth PL1 4SG.

E-mail: debbie.mccullough@devonport.co.uk

Fax: 01752 325082.



DML

DEVONPORT



Sea Cadets



● Navigation training on the bridge – with (L-R) Lt Ian Andrews (N3 HMS Scott) Lt Deirdre Lorimer, RNR (First Lieutenant, TS Scott), Cadet Mark Phillips, Cadet Jennifer Christey and Lt Peter Lewis, RNR (Commanding Officer TS Scott).



● GUNNERY ACQUAINT: (L-R) SRI 'Mabel' Thorpe (HMS Scott), PO 'Smudge' Smith (FOST staff), Cadet Mark Phillips, Cadet Jennifer Christey and Lt Peter Lewis, RNR (Commanding Officer TS Scott)

Spotlight on Scott



● Cadet Loius Leedham helps out in the galley.

AFTER completing an extended maintenance period in Devonport, HMS Scott conducted sea trials and weapon training in the South Coast Exercise areas – and invited along four cadets from Maidstone unit.

It was a welcome relief from their school schedule – and valuable 'work experience' as all four are considering full-time careers in the Royal Navy.

They were able to take part in all aspects of life in the Ocean Survey Ship, from helping in the galley to watch-keeping on the bridge – and had the chance to watch the ship's first-ever General Purpose Machine Gun drills. The weapons were newly fitted during the alongside period and the gun's crews were put through their paces by Flag Officer Sea Training Staff

Chinook flight to Ocean for lucky 15

CADETS from Hove, Croydon and Huddersfield came back to the UK in the biggest ship in the Fleet. The group of 15 joined HMS Ocean by Chinook helicopter at Gibraltar and were her special guests for the last leg of her voyage back to her base port of Devonport.

Jenna Rhoades, from Huddersfield, said the trip exceeded all her expectations. While she had ambitions to become a midwife, she had not ruled out the idea of a career in the Royal Navy.

Lt Stuart Ford, who accompanied the Hove cadets, said it had been a highly worthwhile visit.

"They have been shown the ship in full working order," he said. "They have had access to everyone they have asked to see and the ship's company from the Commanding Officer down have been very hospitable."

HMS Ocean was returning to Plymouth after three months away on a deployment called Argonaut 2001.

This was the biggest RN deployment – involving 24 RN and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships and two British submarines – since the Falklands Conflict in 1982.

It showed the ability of the UK military forces to deploy, operate and sustain a maritime task force of this size and culminated in Exercise Saif Sareea off Oman, working together with Omani forces.

The role of HMS Ocean was to land and recover 350 Royal Marines from 40 Cdo based in Taunton, Somerset, and to act as a Helicopter Landing Platform for 16 support and attack helicopters and over 300 aviation personnel.

Some 3,000 helicopter movements were clocked up on the ship's flight deck and 8,500 troop moves were planned and successfully executed together with the logistical support of four Landing Craft.

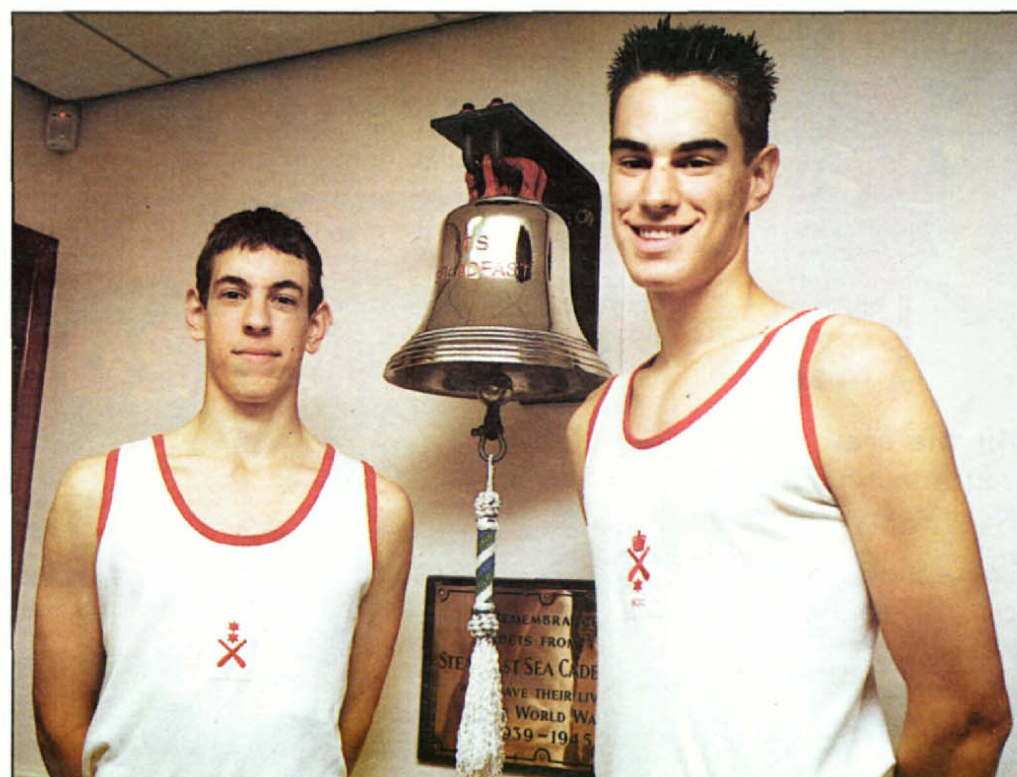
● Sea Cadets get to grips with the Royal Marines hardware stored in HMS Ocean's cavernous hangar.





Double first as Steadfast voted Britain's main MCD

FOR the first time in its 47 year history, Steadfast Marine Cadet Detachment has won the Gibraltar Cup as the country's top MCD – also the first time this prestigious award has come to the London Area.



● **STAR PLAYERS:** Brothers Sgt Ryan and Cpl George Morris of TS Steadfast Marine Cadet Detachment

In tune with the Guards

WHEN two clarinet-playing cadets attended a rehearsal with the Band of the Dragoon Guards, they so impressed the Director of Music that they were invited to join their next concert – and all other concert dates the Band will play in Norfolk.

AC Thomas Griffin and AC Paul Mayfield were asked by Capt Leigh Sharpe to take part in a concert at Potters Leisure, Hopton on Sea, promoted by Great Yarmouth Sea Cadets on behalf of the James Paget Hospital and Children in Need.

The programme was varied and wide ranging, including the *Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart), *Tocata and Fugue in D Minor* (Bach), *Les Miserables* (Barker) and *West Side Story* (Bernstein).

The concert raised over £3,000.

AC Griffin also performed at the Portsmouth International Festival of the Sea as a member of the Massed Bands of the Sea Cadet Corps.

● **ACs Griffin and Mayfield perform with the Band of the Dragoon Guards.**



The Kingston unit joined five others for the final – a gruelling weekend of Drill, weapons training tests, seamanship, shooting and assault course – at Halton Barracks in Lancashire.

The competition should have been held in February and had been postponed several times due to the foot and mouth epidemic.

The Gibraltar Cup is awarded to the MCD which is considered to have attained the highest standard of all-round merit and is judged on the year's showing as well as on the field competition.

2001 was a brilliant year for Steadfast MCD, which also won the London Area Drill Competition and came third in the national event.

Brothers Sgt Ryan and Cpl George Morris (pictured here) are two of Steadfast MCD's star players, having lately excelled themselves on two week-long training courses at HMS Temeraire, Portsmouth.

Activities included circuit training, games and a 2.4km run that had to be achieved in under 14 minutes. Both had to prove skills in instruction – and both attained high awards, George in particular being regarded as possibly the most outstanding Cadet instructor in the whole of the Marine Cadet Detachment for his category.

We can use your old computers

If any readers have any serviceable PC equipment they no longer have a use for, Southern Area will be happy to take it off your hands. Visit their web site at <http://southernseacadets.org> and follow the link to 'Find the Sea Cadets'.

Isle of Wight unit marks long links



VICE Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham was guest of honour at the 40th anniversary celebration of TS Royal George.

His father, Rear Admiral Joe Blackham, has had a very long association with the Ryde Unit – he has been its president for over 30 years and is still a regular visitor.

Said the Unit's Commanding Officer Lt Eric Goode: "We were delighted that Sir Jeremy was able to come, in the light of recent events. He has also visited the Unit several times in recent years and is a welcome and popular visitor."

Sir Jeremy also called on the Cowes Unit TS Osborne to present their annual awards – LC Gary Peterson taking the top trophy as President's Cadet.

The Southern Area Solo Drumming champion OC Robert Walker gave a demonstration of his winning solo at an evening also attended by the Mayor of Cowes, Cllr Jeff Banks.

● **Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham cuts the TS Royal George 40th birthday cake with Julia Baker-Smith, who was a cadet at the Ryde Unit for six years, during which time she represented the SCC in an exchange visit to the USA. She is now a Student Medical Assistant serving at the Royal Medical Defence College in Gosport.**

True blue brew for the Duke

A RARE bottle of Bass Ale was presented to the Duke of York when he opened Burton upon Trent Unit's new headquarters – it was brewed by his great great grandfather Edward VII!

TS Modwena president Cdr Keith Hornby Priestnall warned the Duke that it was by now probably undrinkable. Quick as a flash, the Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps responded: "I hope you are not implying that my ancestor was a poor and inadequate brewer!"

The bottle is now reported to be reposing in the Buckingham Palace cellars, where an effort is being made to co-ordinate the date and events surrounding the occasion when King Edward started the brew.

TS Modwena's historic wooden Victorian boathouse, which had been their training establishment since 1942, had to be demolished and the cost of building a new HQ was way beyond its means.

But a substantial Lottery Grant started the ball rolling and many local and national charities chipped in.

Best of all, seven specialist local companies offered outstanding discounts and professional guidance "over and above the call of duty" to complete the job.

TS Modwena will be happy to pass on details of their successful project plan to any unit facing the same problem.

The Duke called the new HQ "a magnificent success" and wished the ship's company "good sailing".

● **ROYAL BREW:** The Duke of York with his bottle of Edward VII Bass.





The GANG PLANK Club



All the crew wish you a very Happy New Year.

We hope this will also be a great New Year for the Environment. To give it a head start we've devoted this month's pages to lots of info on this important subject.

Don't forget to read our "Don't just dump it" feature and enter our GREAT IDEAS competition. You could win some cool prizes.

Let's hope your NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS make a difference to the world around us.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!



DON'T JUST DUMP IT

Christmas has been great fun, but do you know we manage to create huge amounts of waste during the holidays?

Between 20% and 30% more glass and cans are collected

over the Christmas time?

Over 5 million Christmas Trees were thrown out last year - that's over 9,000 tonnes of waste, enough to fill the Albert Hall three times!!

So, what can we do about all this waste?

Here's our NEW YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

1. Don't forget to recycle your Christmas Tree! Lots of Garden Centres and Local Authorities have facilities for

recycling trees. Don't just dump them outside the door.

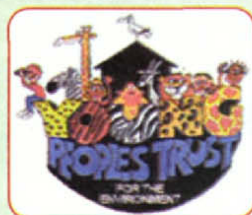
2. Recycle your Christmas cards - many of the High Street Charity shops take Christmas cards to recycle. So, before you put those cards in the bin, take

them shopping and find a shop that will make good use of them.

3. If you're still using up those leftovers use containers rather than bags or foil for your packed lunch, they can be used over and over again!
4. Say No to unwanted bags - make sure you re-use carrier bags and try to fit your shopping in less bags
5. If you got lots of toys for Christmas and they need batteries why not invest in some rechargeable ones
6. Buy recycled - there are loads of products around that use recycled materials, including some very cool stationery!
7. Pack your Christmas decorations away carefully so they



LOG ON FOR TOP INFO ON THE ENVIRONMENT



for your teachers. There's even a chance to book one of their holidays where

you can learn about the environment.

Another site Technocat really liked was www.adoptabeach.org.uk. This tells you how you can get involved with clearing up some of our lovely beaches and keep an eye on how the pollution gets there in the first place. The site is supported by the Marine Conservation Society.

If you spot any good sites on the Environment let us know and we'll compile our Top Ten sites!

Technocat is very interested in the environment. He's been surfing the web and has come up with some excellent sites on the environment.

One of the best is www.yptenc.org.uk. It's the site for the Young People's Trust for the Environment and it has lots of information presented in a really cool way. There's facts for you, and also facts and projects

YOU COULD WIN A PowerPodz PopStars Starter Pack

Containing 16 delicious chocolate pods with 5cm plastic pop star figures inside and a fantastic game - otherwise known as **PowerPodz PopStars**

This is a new joint venture between Corinthian Marketing and Magna Specialist Confectioners (who previously produced **PowerPodz MicroStars**).

They have negotiated with the Country's top bands to launch **PowerPodz PopStars**.

The bands include 'Steps', 'Hear'Say', 'Five' and 'A1'.

Answer the following question correctly and you could be a winner

Q: Name Three Bands that PowerPodz PopStars represent?



Send your answers on a postcard with your name, address and membership number to:

'PowerPodz Comp'
Young Readers Club,
Navy News,
HMS Nelson,
Queen Street,
Portsmouth PO1 3HH

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:
8th FEBRUARY 2002

The Editors decision is final - relatives and employees of Navy News are ineligible to enter.

Your chance to send for a presentation pack of KIPLING'S ANIMAL MAGIC STAMPS

(Issued 15th January 2002)

Based on Rudyard Kipling's classic 'Just So' stories -

The set comprises a full set of ten stamps picturing exotic animals featured in the original stories. Royal Mail Special Stamp Products are available from www.royalmail.com/shop or from Royal Mail Orderline 08457 641641

We have 25 of these super presentation packs to give away to the first 25 of our members to send us a postcard marked 'KIPLING'S ANIMAL STAMPS OFFER' to:

Young Readers Club, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 8TH FEBRUARY 2002

The Editor's decision is final - relatives and employees of Navy News are ineligible to enter.

GREAT IDEAS COMPETITION

We're looking for people with Great Ideas about how to cut down on waste and conserve energy!!

If you have a Great Idea then write to us NOW!

You could win one of five special Gang Plank goodie bags

Your idea should fit on to one sheet of A4 paper. You can show your idea in drawings, colourings, pictures and writing.

To give you a jump start read our "Don't just dump it" story. If you can't think of a new idea you might want to draw a picture to show one of our ideas.

Great Ideas should be sent to:
Young Readers Club, HMS Nelson,
Portsmouth PO1 3HH**CLOSING DATE: 1st FEBRUARY 2002**

The Editor's decision is final - employees and relatives of Navy News are ineligible to enter

can be used again next year.

8. Save wrapping paper for next year, you can even iron it, carefully and with an adult in charge!
9. Why not buy your friends Paper recycling kits? They're great fun and you can make your own personalised paper.
10. For more ideas and great info log on to www.wasteline.org.uk or call - 0870 243 0136 (don't forget to ask whoever pays the phone bill before you log on or call)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE IN THE NAVY!

Did you know there are loads of rare or endangered birds and plants living quite happily in Britain's naval establishments? Navy News has found out all the facts. To check them go to page 30 of this Navy News **NOW!**

THE MESS DECK

We hope you had a great Christmas! If you got some new pencils and pens now's the time to start using them to write to us! Don't forget Star letters receive some great prizes - and star e-mails too! Yes, Technocat sits by his computer just waiting to hear from you! So, log on to www.navynews.co.uk, get clicking on our Gang Plank pages and send us an e-mail!

Thanks to Charlotte Squire for her e-mail, she said so many nice things we just had to let you see it!

"Hi, my name is Charlotte Squire. I became a member in the years I was at Worktop Sea Cadet Corps. I was 9 years old when I first got interested in this club. I am now 14 and I am very proud to have been a member of the club for 5 years now as every month I get a GangPlank Club magazine. The best thing that the club offers is access to places for less which gives you a great

opportunity to go to places which you may not have been able to visit. In the past I have also received FREE gifts which have included things like Sunflower Seeds, Birthday Cards, Navy Calendar and Christmas Presents. The best FREE gift I received was the exceptionally good Navy Calendar which I gladly received last year at Christmas. I also received a card which I have had every year since I first joined. I am so very glad to be a member and I wish this club the very best in the future and I hope that the general public can give you the support you need. Thank you once again for your generosity as it is very much appreciated. I will be glad to remain a member of this club as it is an asset to everyone who is interested in the Navy. Your thankfully, Miss Charlotte Squire

Charlotte wins one of our star prizes - a Uno Extreme

Birthday Congratulations!

Jack Absalom	Matthew Frost	Jonathan Price
Steven Allcock	George Gardener	Benjamin Reedman
Gemma Arnill	Ross Grosvenor	James Rizzi
Stephen Aspin	Michael Guthrie	Alexander Rose
Natasha Barker	Holly Hancock	Matthew Rush
Kirsty Blanks	Kim Hayman	Charlotte Senn
Laura Broadbent	Fabian Healey	Daniel Shaw
David Burdon	Barry Horler	Thomas Shaw
Kimberley Burrell	Sami Hussain	Samuel Shears
Jacob Bushell	Christopher James	Evan Shelley
Scott Caffel	Adam Jones	Conor Shone
Daniel Chard	Amber Jones	Paul Siemaszko
Emily Chiplin	Kitty King	Ethan Simpson
Jordan Clarke	Lucy King	Ross Sketchley
Rebekah Coleman	William King	Gemma Smith
Geoff Cooper	Nathan Lavin	Shannon Spayne
Gareth Davies	Natasha Lewis	Adam Spivey
Jenny Denholm	Adam Lilley	Luke Strickland
Hannah Dennis	Chloe Lockhart	Joseph Tinker
Joshua Derham	Shannon Malcolmson	Jamie Topham
Katie Donovan	Olivia Mansfield	Gareth Ward
Erin Duffy	Daniel Moore	Robert Webb
Maisy Dulling	Thomas Marrant	Charlotte Westaway
Michael Dunk	Sian Morris	Scott Whale
Mark Eaden	Christopher Nicholls	Megan Wilkes
Ashley Eaton	Jamie Nixon	Christopher Williams
Katy Edgell	Patrick O'Connor	James Williams
Shannon Edwards	Sherrie Palmer	Jenna Wood
Edward Feby	Tom Pardoe	Alice Wright
Adela Fotheringham	Thomas Pratt	Emma Wrigley

YOUR INVITATION TO SEE THE NAVY>BE THE NAVY at ACTION STATIONS PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

As a member of the Junior Readers Club you are invited to a Party at **ACTION STATIONS** during Half Term week beginning 11th February 2002 from 2.00 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE TICKETS TO GIVE AWAY - SEE BELOW

Be prepared for some serious **ACTION STATIONS** excitement - face painting, games, puzzles, food and lots of fun await you.

SPECIAL GUESTS -**PLAYERS FROM PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**

And to remind you of what you can do at **ACTION STATIONS** - be part of the action in our blockbuster film *Command Approved* (cert PG) as the Royal Navy defeats modern day pirates. You can fly a Merlin Helicopter on the flight simulator; shoot down an Exocet missile or helicopter gunship using real weapons; experience a 'replenishment at sea' on the **ACTION STATIONS** bridge simulator; be part of the Ops Room Team; challenge the Royal Marines on our moving climbing wall, or cross country ski-ing, or the 'canoe to base' challenge. You can also see if you've got what it takes to join today's Royal Navy on our *Team Works* interactive games.

Tickets to this fantastic event cost £2.50 (accompanying adults and over 16's £5.00).

To book please telephone 023 9289 3321 Or email hms.monarch@pnbpt.cix.co.ukWe have 25 free tickets to give away - simply telephone 023 9289 3318 and answer this simple question: What is the name of the **ACTION STATIONS** film?

Please leave your name, address, telephone number and membership number.

The tickets will go to the first 25 correct callers.

(Calls are charged at standard rate)

CLOSING DATE: 25th JANUARY 2002**Be part of the ACTION!**

The Editors decision is final - relatives and employees of Navy News are ineligible to enter.

AHOY THERE SHIPMATES!

There are lots of exciting changes afoot for 2002

We are introducing a two tier Club from January 2002.

Our Younger Readers (10yrs and under) will still belong to

'THE GANGPLANK CLUB' with Captain Plank at the helm -

Our Older Readers (11-16yrs) will belong to 'NAVY NEWS CREW' - which will have a more modern high tech image.

All new members enrolled in both Clubs will now have Life Membership that lasts until their 16th Birthday.

Members of both clubs will be able to use their membership cards to obtain discounts on entry to many local attractions and events throughout the Year, both in their own locality and nationwide. Our new style coupon reflects these changes - see below

YOUNG READERS CLUB

Please enroll me as a member of The Young Readers Club.

I enclose a PO/cheque (payable to Navy News) for:

£17.50 - Life Membership (until 16th Birthday) (Includes a copy of Navy News for 12 months)

Name

Address

Postcode D.O.B. Tel No

E-mail address

School attended

Joined by: Parent ☐ Grandparent ☐ Other ☐Do you have any Brothers ☐ Sisters ☐ Ages ☐Special Interests: Sport ☐ Music ☐ Film/TV ☐Friends ☐ Reading ☐

Send your completed form, together with a postal order/cheque for £17.50 to:

'Young Readers Club'**Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH**

call 023 9273 3558 or 023 9282 6040 (24 hr Answerphone)

We will also accept payment by:- Visa, Delta, Access, Mastercard, Solo or Switch on orders of £5.00 or over



Accommodation

THE GLADYER INN

The Place to stay in Rosyth

Within easy walking distance of Dockyard

Karaoke, Jukebox, Pool, Darts, Live Entertainment
PUBLIC BAR • LOUNGE • FUNCTION SUITE
21 twin-double rooms all en suite. Reasonable rates

Tel: 01383 419977
Fax: 01383 411728

Welcome to the... HOLIDAY INN PORTSMOUTH & HOLIDAY INN FAREHAM

Visiting the new "Explosion Museum of Naval Power" at Priddy's Hard?
Only 7 miles from Fareham Holiday Inn, and 12 miles from Portsmouth Holiday Inn.

All **naval personnel** who produce their **ID card** can
stay for only **£49.00 per room** any night of the week*

(subject to availability)
For Reservations Call ~ Holiday Inn Portsmouth: 023 9285 6333
Holiday Inn Fareham: 01329 844012

PORTSMOUTH LADY HAMILTON

Closest B+B to Naval Base,
100 yards from main gate,
HMS Victory/Mary Rose/
HMS Warrior/
Museums all on doorstep.
22 rooms most en-suite,
singles/doubles/twins +
family rooms, colour T.V.,
Tea+Coffee facilities, free house

Tel: 023 9287 0505

Imperial HOTEL

PLYMOUTH HOE RAC
AA * Lockyer St, PL1 2QD *
Telephone: (01752) 227311

Elegant Victorian Building with 22
Bedrooms - 5 Ground Floor.
Nautical Flavour Cocktail Bar.
Colour TV, Radio, Tea/Coffee/
Telephone all rooms. Most en suite.
Large car park. Navy News
Readers 10% Accommodation
Discount. All Credit Cards
accepted.

Brochure & or Booking contact:
Lt. Cdr. Alan Jones RNR (Ret'd)
"A 'Personal Service' Comfortable Hotel"

Garian House Holiday Flatlets

Self-catering flatlets, near sea and shops. Fully equipped. Colour TV, fridge,
cooker, linen, etc. Ideal for a visit by family or girl friend.

CHARGE PER PERSON - MINIMUM 2 PERSONS

WEEKLY JULY & AUGUST - £100.00 WEEKLY JUNE & SEPTEMBER - £80.00
OTHER MONTHS - £70.00 LONG LETS - £60.00
1st SEPT - 1st JUNE ANY 3 NIGHTS (CONSECUTIVE) - £45.00
DEPOSIT PER PERSON - £20.00

CHILDREN 12 YEARS OR UNDER HALF PRICE IF SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM AS ADULTS.

BOOKINGS ARE SATURDAY TO SATURDAY ONLY DURING MAY - OCTOBER.

MR CURTIS, 70 FESTING GROVE, SOUTHSEA, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.

TELEPHONE: 023 9273 3581 Between 9am - 4pm
www.garianhouse.co.uk

Hampshire Court Hotel

29/31 Hampshire Terrace, Southsea PO1 2QF

Delightful listed building, 1823. Central for seafront,
stations, city centre, ferry ports etc. Private car parking
Tea/coffee making facilities, colour TVs in all rooms + full
English breakfast

Telephone (023) 9282 3522

THE GRAND HOTEL Plymouth

Accommodation & Full English Breakfast

Off Season (November - March)

£22.50 pppn sharing a double/twin

Special Discounted Rates offered for 1 night or more
between Thursday - Sunday,

Subject to availability at time of booking.

Built in 1879 with 77 bedrooms and conveniently
situated on Plymouth Hoe

*** Telephone: (01752) 661195

A.A. & E.T.C.

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

All booking requirements in writing only, enclosing £5 deposit
on each Family Room. Enclose a S.A.E. for your receipt.

ACCOMMODATION: For Service Personnel, their families and
dependents plus ex. serving personnel and R.N.A. members
who may be visiting the Plymouth area.

FUNCTIONS: We cater for all types of functions at very
competitive prices. Ships Functions, Mess Parties, Wedding
Receptions, Reunions of ships, past and present, we offer an
ideal facility.

Royal Fleet Club

Morice Square, Devonport, Plymouth PL1 4PQ
Telephone inquiries only Plymouth 01752 562723

ASK FOR QUOTATION, CONTACT THE MANAGER
WITHOUT DELAY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

ROYAL SAILORS' HOME CLUB

*Exclusive to present and former Ratings
of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines*

Accommodation • Leisure Facilities • Bars and Restaurant
All at attractive prices.

Private functions catered for by professionals
Hands to dance and skylark to live music
most weekends

Family & Associate membership available
Now licensed for the Marriage Ceremony
Royal Sailors' Home Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HS
TEL: 023 9282 4231 FAX: 023 9229 3496
email: sailors@homeclub.fsnet.co.uk
web site: www.homeclub.fsnet.co.uk
HOME CLUB - HOME COMFORTS - HOME IN !

PLYMOUTH

Osmond Guest House
42 Pier Street, West Hoe
01752 229705

Bed and Breakfast from £16-£20.00
Seafront. Courtesy pick-up from
stations. 4 poster bed. All rooms
CTV. Tea/Coffee making.
Mostly En-suite. Parking.

ADJOINING PLYMOUTH HOE AND SEAFRONT

Friendly guest house, CTV's,
Tea/Coffee, C.H., mostly en suite,
T.V. lounge, parking. From £18 p.p.
Edgcombe Guest House
50 Pier Street, West Hoe
Tel 01752 660675
E-mail hawton@clara.co.uk

Fry & Kent

Residential Sales and Lettings

Fry & Kent Residential Lettings Limited are pleased
to offer their professional Lettings Services to all
Naval Personnel.

We have a selection of quality properties to let, suitable for
singles, couples and families.

For exceptional service and experience,
call 023 9282 2300

Navy News Notice To Readers

The publishers of Navy News
cannot accept responsibility for
the accuracy of any advertisement
or for any losses suffered by any
readers as a result.

Readers are strongly recommended
to make their own enquiries and
seek appropriate commercial, legal
and financial advice before sending
any money or entering into any
legally binding agreement.

Stalham-Norfolk

Comfortable Two Bedroom
Holiday Chalets On
Attractive Site.
Ideal location for Touring
Norfolk Broads and Coast.
From £85.00 p.w.

Tel: 01692-581985

MALTA, MSIDA. Very central
Guest room in family house.
All rooms self catering with
excellent facilities, TV, en suite.
Extremely comfortable. Airport
transfer, reasonable rates.
Tel/Fax 00356 21313797

Countrywide Residential Lettings

For a choice of quality properties
in the Solent area contact:

Southsea/Old Portsmouth Portsmouth & Surrounding
023 9229 6022 023 9265 0101

UNION JACK CLUB

Opposite Waterloo Main Line
Station and ideal location for
visiting the London Eye, Imax
cinema and all the attractions
of central London.

Wide range of bedrooms
continually being improved to
suit all tastes and budgets.
TV and telephone now in
all en-suite bedrooms.
Ask to stay here when visiting
London on duty.

For more information contact:

Reservations Office
UNION JACK CLUB

Sandell Street
London SE1 8UJ

Tel: 020-7928 4814

Fax: 020-7620 0565

e-mail: abo@ujclub.co.uk

The King Charles Hotel

Medway 'Golden Jubilee' Heritage Break

Tuesday 4th June - Friday 5th June

3 Nights Dinner, Accommodation & Full English Breakfast

Free Entrance to the Royal Engineers Museum on Wednesday 5th June

Free Day to visit Medway's Dickens Festival in Rochester on Thursday 6th June (Free transport provided to Rochester)

~ £79.00 pp based on two people sharing ~

Telephone 01634 830303

ADVERTISING RATES

(excl. VAT) as effective from 1st April 2000

DISPLAY

Full Page .. £2,180

Half Page ... £1,204

Quarter Page £680

S.c.c. £13.50

PENFRIENDS

CLASSIFIED

Lineage 90p per word

Trade minimum 30wds.

For Sale, Minimum .10wds.

Box number £3

See details on page10

Discounts, Colour Rates, Technical Details available on request.

Tel: 023 9272 5062 for a full Media Pack

The King Charles Hotel

Medway 'Golden Jubilee' Navy Days Break

Saturday 1st June - Tuesday 4th June

3 Nights Dinner, Accommodation & Full English Breakfast

Gala 'Navy Days Ball' Dinner & Cabaret on Saturday Night

Table D'Hote Dinner on Sunday & Monday Nights - Free Entrance to Navy Days on Sunday 2nd June

Free Entrance to the Royal Engineers Museum on Monday 3rd June

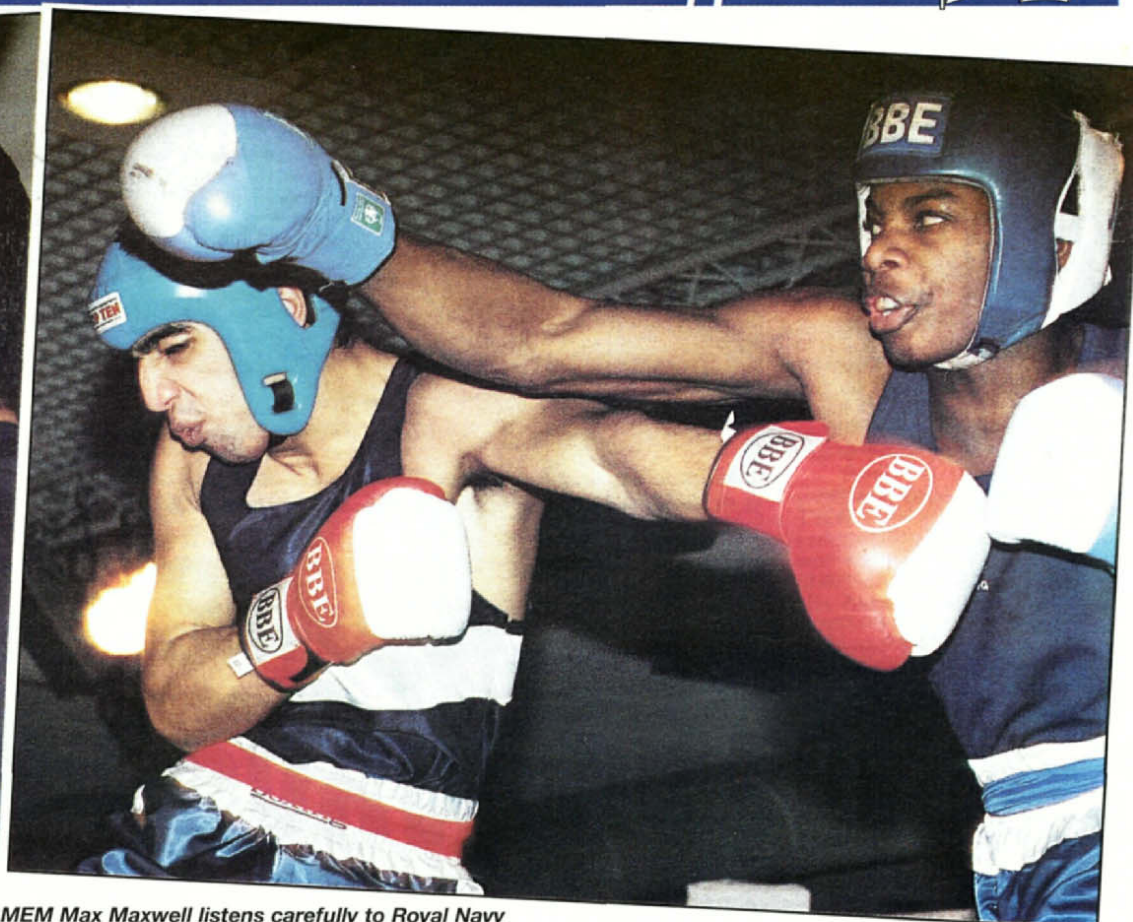
~ £99.00 pp based on two people sharing ~

Telephone 01634 830303





● Good advice – effective action: MEM Max Maxwell listens carefully to Royal Navy boxing coach POPT Q Shillingford, then completes a comfortable points win against his durable Scottish opponent.



Navy boxers in optimistic mood

THE ROYAL Navy boxing squad goes into this year's inter-Services showdown with confidence sky-high – and their mentor is predicting big things from his talented fighters.

Many of the group spent a week before Christmas at training camp in Portugal, going through their paces in a programme devised by Navy coaches.

"The seven days intensive training went very well," said POPT Q Shillingford, the Royal Navy boxing coach.

Their programme included anything from three to eight-mile runs, circuit training, weight training, technique sessions, sparring and gym sessions.

"There were also early-morning sessions

swimming in the sea – something different."

The inter-Services and team boxing championships are due to be staged at HMS Nelson on January 24, and for the winners there is not just the honour of being best in the Services.

Winners will also be in the Combined Services team for the national ABA quarter-finals, and selectors will also be keeping an eye open for likely contenders with the Commonwealth Games coming up.

The final line-up has not yet been determined, but the main contenders should be considered favourites, according to Q.

"All eight of them stand a good chance of winning. The Army has six or seven highly-ranked lads and depth in quantity, but we have the quality," he said.

"Morale is high, and the lads are all looking

to make an impression on this year's event."

The current squad – subject to operational deployments and non-availability – is as follows: **LMEM Tucker (light flyweight):** "A tough, determined young boxer with a very high work rate," said Q.

OM Boothby (bantamweight): "Boothby's fast hands and powerful left hooks stand him in good stead in this year's championships."

Mne Swainstone (featherweight): "Swainy is a tough, strong and eager young Royal Marine who has been showing a lot of promise whilst boxing for the Navy."

OM Kev Davie (lightweight): "Davie has won this title for two years on the trot. Ranked No 3 in the country with over 50 bouts under his belt, he must be a favourite."

Mne Jimmy Cusack (light welterweight): "Won this title at first attempt last year, and ranked No 5 in England, No 2 in Scotland. He is looking to win his national title this year."

Mne Kev Green (welterweight): "A new star to the team, this Scottish international represented the Combined Services against the Cyprus national team. He won his bout and got best boxer of the tournament. This is his first attempt at this title."

MEM Max Maxwell (light middleweight): "Max started boxing three years ago when he joined the Royal Navy, and since winning the Portsmouth Area Championships at the first attempt has now completed 20 bouts, with 17 wins and ten KOs."

Mne David Tang (middleweight): "David is an all-action boxer with a relentless non-stop style; fit, strong and very durable, and is again looking to make his mark on the scene."

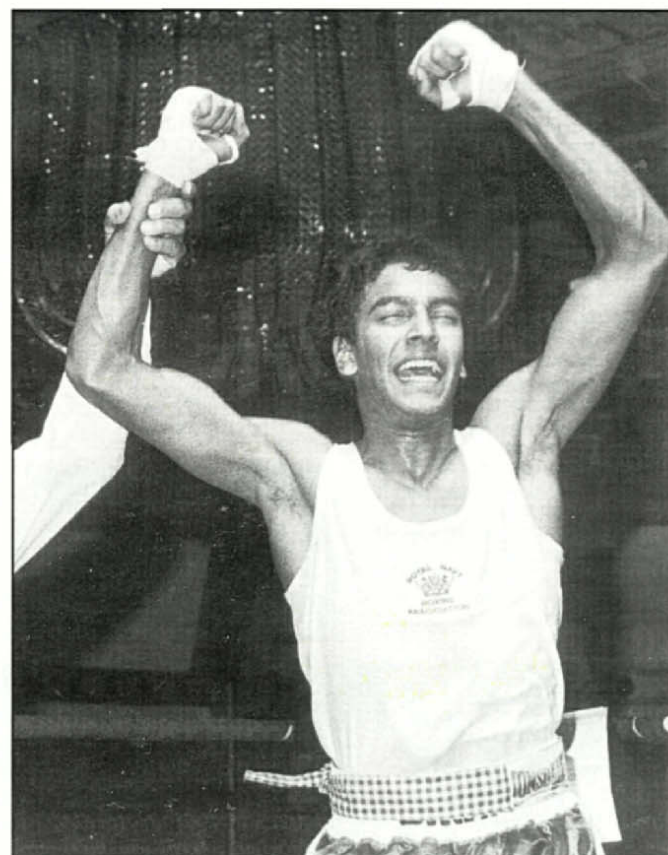
LPT Jason Steele (light heavyweight): "Jay has been boxing on and off for the Navy for the past four years; a strong, confident boxer looking to win the title at the first attempt."

OM Tony Hindley (cruiserweight): "Young schoolboy international and junior champion, having won last year's title; ranked No 3 in England, so Tony is looking for a successful defence of his Combined Services title."

Mne Mick O'Connell: "This will be Mick's third attempt at the title after having to be withdrawn with a cut eye and losing on a controversial decision; the Irish Hammer is confident of bringing the heavyweight title back to the Senior Service this year."

Mne Mulky Mulcharins (super heavyweight): "Mulky's strong aggressive style and impressive hitting power should steer him to a very good chance as a title contender."

● Tony Hindley (blue) blasts his way past an Army boxer to the 2001 inter-Services cruiserweight title.



● Q Shillingford takes the NABC national title in 1986.

Q still seeks to deliver KO blow

NAVY coach POPT Q Shillingford knows a thing or two about Services boxing – he retired as a Navy veteran at the age of 22.

Q took up the sport at the age of ten at Wembley, and was national schoolboy champion by the time he was 14 – a title he retained for three years.

He already had 90 bouts behind him when he joined the Navy in September 1985 – and within a few months he had picked up an NABC Senior title, while still at HMS Raleigh.

He was five times Navy champion at lightweight or welterweight, a three-times Combined Services champion, and rose to fourth in the Great Britain ranking order.

By the age of 22, a veteran of 142 bouts, with 22 defeats, Q decided it was time to abandon the gloves and pass on some of his experience.

As a PTI he is still passionate about guiding the Royal Navy to success, and now, at 34, he has just passed his England ABA coaching course.

His enthusiasm has seen a rise in interest in the sport at HMS Nelson, with well-attended training sessions for both men and women.

He has great faith in his current squad, but for boxing heroes he looks to the past – in Q's eyes, Muhammad Ali was indeed the greatest, and Chris Eubank gets the British title on a split decision.

Spectators are welcome at the inter-Services event on Thursday, January 24, at HMS Nelson gym.

Tickets, at £5, can be obtained in advance from the Officer of the Watch on HMS Nelson main gate in Queen Street, or on the door.

There will be refreshments available on the night.





Defeats put Navy out of running

THE NAVY'S chances of winning this season's South West Counties Cup have all but gone after losing their opening matches against Devon and Sussex, writes Lt Cdr Steve Vasey.

The team got away to a flying start against Devon when POPT Fraser Quirke (HMS Temeraire) scored from a well-worked free kick by LPT Dave Wilson (HMS Glasgow), leaving the county side stunned.

It took a while for Devon to regain their composure, and half an hour had gone before they were back on level terms thanks to a 20-yard fizzer.

A reasonable start to the second half fell apart for the sailors when they conceded two penalties, for a foul and hand-ball respectively, both smashed past Navy keeper NA Stuart Brooks (BRNC) by Steve Blurton of Dawlish Town.

The Navy reduced the arrears when a shot from CPOAEA Nigel Thwaites (HMS Lancaster) was deflected in by a defender, but Devon had another purple patch, scoring twice in four minutes.

Navy pressure to the end was rewarded when Cpl Richie Hope (RM Stonehouse) scored after a mix-up in the Devon defence, making the result 5-3 to Devon.

The Dark Blues again started well in their match against Sussex FA, but they couldn't find the net.

Sussex went ahead after 40 minutes when Brooks got his hand to a shot but a County forward stroked in the loose ball.

On the stroke of half-time the lead was doubled when a break down the Navy's left flank ended with a 30-yard chip which just cleared the keeper.

The second half started with the Navy on top, with Quirke and AEM Steve Dann (HMS Heron) going close, the Sussex keeper foiling them with great reaction stops.

But defensive lapses allowed the County to score twice more.

■ The Navy's women drew 1-1 against Yeovil Town Ladies at HMS Heron.



● POAEM Matt Lawless tests the peaty surf at Thurso East.

Not quite Hawaii but the waves are lovely

A BUSY period for Royal Navy and Royal Marines surfers saw several successes in competitions over recent months.

Towards the end of the summer a four-man team – C/Sgt Paul Keenan, CPO Shaun Maloney, PO George Besford and Cpl Warren Keays-Smith – competed in the British Longboard Club Championships at Llangennith Beach on the Gower peninsula in Wales.

Although the weather was superb, there was no swell for most of day one of the competition, so all heats were scheduled for the final day.

A decent swell picked up late in the day, allowing teams to get in some timely practice, and it augured well for the following day.

Sure enough, the competition – held over two heats – featured a good 3-4ft surf, although it rapidly closed out leaving little time for any traditional longboard styling.

Out of 17 teams competing, the RN/RM quartet came a creditable seventh, equalling last year's effort.

Considering the level of competition – the world's fourth-best longboarder took part – the team were very pleased with their performance; PO Besford and Cpl Keays-Smith achieved second place in each of their heats.

In October 40 potential surfers gathered at Sennen Cove in Cornwall for the RN club's second learn-to-surf sessions for beginners and intermediates.

These weekends are by far the club's biggest events of the year and are becoming so popular that they are now running at maximum capacity – book early for next year.

With around 20 club members also turning up for a free surf, Sennen Cove took over from Newquay as Cornwall's Surf City for the weekend.

Four club instructors taught a mixture of adults and children of varying ability, and all thoroughly enjoyed the two sessions that they had on the Saturday.

However, late in the afternoon, a huge swell came in and although the beginners were practising in

the white water, conditions were very challenging.

Out the back it was akin to the North Shore of Hawaii, with massive waves of up to 20ft on the face, sending even the most experienced club surfers heading for the shore.

A successful barbecue was held at the campsite after a good day's surfing, but unfortunately the following day's programme had to be cancelled because of gale-force winds and sea conditions far too dangerous for beginners or intermediates to venture out into.

The next club event was the British Shortboard Club Championships, held at Woolacombe.

A six-man RN/RM team took part – POMEA R. McGregor, POAEM Shay Bowen, POAEM S. Hicks, Cpl Warren Keays-Smith, CPOAEM Shaun Maloney and LAEM S. Parry – but they could only manage ninth out of the ten teams taking part.

This event has been a feature of the British surf scene for years – unlike the relatively-new longboard event – and attracts the best British shortboard surfers around.

On balance, the team did well against stiff opposition, but they were disappointed at their final showing and hope to do better next year, especially with a few of the star performers having returned from the front-line by then.

The final major event in the club diary was the annual surf safari expedition, which saw eight hardy surfers sample the delights of Scotland in the late autumn.

The original plan was to head for RM Condor at Arbroath with the intention of spending three

days surfing the east coast between Aberdeen and Fraserburgh.

Unfortunately, conditions were flat, and after two days the decision was made to head north and to surf Thurso near John o'Groats.

Thurso is a reef break producing a world-class wave – and it did not disappoint.

Conditions were grim, with gale-force winds, driving rain and cold, heavy, black, peaty waves, but the crew were out in the midst of it, regularly ripping in waves 6-8ft high.

POAEM Matt Lawless, POAEM Shay Bowen, CPOAEM Shaun Maloney and C/Sgt Paul Keenan earned the respect of local surfers with quality surfing sessions over the five days spent in Thurso.

Normally waves of this calibre attract crowds of surfers, which ultimately makes life difficult trying to catch the wave.

For the crew to have it virtually to themselves was a huge bonus, and they took full advantage.

On the way home, a surf in small conditions was achieved at Lunan Bay near Arbroath, making it all a most successful safari.

Club events kick off again in the spring with beginners weekends planned, along with the usual competitions and a training camp to France – culminating in an expedition to Hawaii late in the year.

Anyone interested in RN/RM surfing should contact Lt Cdr Colin Pryde or POAEM Shay Bowen on RNAS Culdrose 2194 or 7661, or Cpl Warren Keays-Smith on Chivenor 7881.

Tug of war team needs judges and coaches

THE COMBINED Services tug-of-war team is looking for people to train as judges and coaches at HMS Collingwood in early March.

The team desperately needs as many officials as possible, and everyone completing the short weekend course will be both Combined Services and civilian-qualified in tug-of-war officiating and coaching.

Judges are expected to have spent at least two or three years 'on the rope' to understand the sport in depth.

It's all technique, stamina and brainwork nowadays," said WO Ray Fray-Smith, the newly-appointed Forces rep at the Tug-of-War Association committee.

Last year the Combined Services team won bronze in the catchweight competition at the national championships, and is looking to the future when it hopes tug-of-war will become an Olympic sport.

The Royal Navy has asked that the training take place in Collingwood again because it is keen to raise the profile of tug-of-war within the Service.

If you are interested, see DCI JS 126/01 for more details.

Plans are laid for women's gun run team

PLANS are being drawn up to enter a women's team in this year's Brickwoods Field Gun competition.

Lt Sue Gardner is looking to put together an all-woman team for the first time in field gun history, and has appealed for women who "are physically fit, or prepared to get fit, enjoy a challenge and are prepared to work hard" to get in touch.

The competition is on June 15, but team members would need to be spared from their units from the beginning of June for training.

Anyone interested in making history should ring Sue, a Queen Alexandra Royal Navy Nursing Service (QARNNS) officer, via LWTR Gater on 0121 627 8836, or write to her at the Centre for Defence medicine, Raddlebarn Road, Selly Oak Hospital, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6JD.

Sue's mobile number is 07770 583949.



● A Trafalgar Night dinner on a Himalayan peak.

High time for dinner

A MOUNTAIN peak in the Himalayas was chosen by one group of sailors as the perfect location to celebrate Trafalgar Night.

The ten Royal Navy Servicemen were on an adventurous training expedition to conquer Mera Peak, the world's most demanding trekking summit.

Despite some injuries and illnesses, the team achieved their 21,500ft goal on October 28, the birthday of the Royal Marines.

On their return they trekked up the Everest

Valley to Namche Bazar and Tengboche.

The ten trekkers were Lt Cdr Andy Mills (SM1), Lt Cdr Paul Hart (Royal Brunei Navy), Lt Dan Hooton (Commodore Naval Aviation, Yeovilton), WO Soapy Watson (SM1), WO Jan Lock (Submarine Integrated Project Team), WO Bob Colville (COMNA Yeovilton), CPO Rob Pike (HMS Vigilant), CPO Al Greig (HMS Vigilant), Sgt Dusty Miller (HMS Neptune) and Sgt Dave Hart (HMS Drake).

It's sport, Jim, but not as we know it

NAVY NEWS does not often get a chance to blow its own trumpet in the sports pages – so when the opportunity came, we thought we had better grasp it (as predicted by a PTI at the prizegiving).

Almost half the staff of the Navy's newspaper donned fancy dress to take part in the HMS Nelson *It's a Knockout* competition, which wrapped up the Commodore's Cup for the term – won by the Riggers from DNBS.

A total of 13 teams entered the *Knockout* event, a logistical nightmare admirably organised by LPT Steve Clarke with help from his colleagues at the Nelson gym.

And it was the Navy News A team, aka the Beach Bums, which exceeded all expectation – particularly within the team itself – to take second place behind the super-fit Defence Diving School.

Trailing in their considerable wake were the team from new Sandown-class minehunter HMS Blyth.

The event was designed to encourage civilians and Service personnel to get together and compete on a not-too-competitive basis.

Dressed in Hawaiian gear, the Beach Bums – Stuart Christmas, Mike Gould, Mike Gray, Samantha Roche and Jane Tafe – stormed through events such as trampoline basketball, deck hockey and cream-cracker eating to put Navy News on the sporting map.

Not too far behind was Navy News B – the Panto Maniacs featuring a fairy, Dick Whittington and his cat and a couple of ugly sisters, the members being Helen Craven, Vanessa Moseley, Sheila Thompson and two guests from Transport, James McGrath and Esther Collins.

Navy News editor Jim Allaway said: "Whenever I feel the need for exercise, I go and lie down until the feeling passes – so I am particularly proud of the Navy News people's success."

"I'm thinking of booking the whole lot into a course at Lympstone as a New Year present."



Winning streak is maintained

Sultan make their point at fencing competition

SULTAN stamped its authority as the leading Navy fencing club at this year's three-man team championships, the Royal Navy Knock-Out competition (RNKO).

Attracting a record twelve teams from seven establishments, it rounded off a successful year for one of the Navy's oldest sporting clubs and Britain's oldest fencing association.

Navy fencers still bolstered by success in Canada (Navy News, November) received a further morale boost with an influx of new faces – more than fifty per cent of the competitors were at their first Navy fencing competition.

With so many new fencers at the event, AEM Alan Clements (Yeovilton A) had a tough time claiming the Best Novice title, which he duly won with six victories in the épée.

Competition for the RNKO title was intense, with Sultan, fielding four teams, maintaining its standing as the association's strongest club.

Culdrose (AEM Andy Wallis, LAEM Mark Needham and S/Lt Martin Russell) bravely challenged the Pompey A team but were narrowly beaten by a point.

The Sultan squad, led by RNAFA Hon Sec Lt Cdr Dicky Barton, swept the board with two weapon wins from Barton and Lt Duncan McClement in the Sabre and Foil and a third place in the épée from AEM Gavin Green.

Newcomers Yeovilton, led by Navy fencing captain Lt Cdr Dave Lewis, credibly produced two teams, indicating future opposition to Sultan's domination, with their A team coming third overall. Other new faces to the event included a full team from the Universities RN Unit.

Though the day was memorable for its newcomers it also saw the departure of one of Navy fencing's most ardent supporters.

Cdr Graham Hockley, the RNAFA Chairman, retires this month after nearly 25 years involved with Navy fencing.

Still keeping it in the family, Graham handed over the chairmanship of the RNAFA to brother Captain Chris Hockley.

A friendly at HMS Collingwood saw a strong Navy team come up against an even stronger Civil Service squad which included a world veteran champion, and the Navy duly finished second.

For further information about Navy fencing or its clubs, call Lt Cdr Barton (Sultan) 93843 2329 or sultan-s6.bartonma@icdr

■ For a full report, see the Navy News website

Kent rowers beat the heat

PROVING that the team onboard HMS Kent works hard and plays even harder, the team event for the Fleet Indoor rowing competition was held on the first day alongside in Dubai after a busy patrol period in the Gulf.

The team, a potent mix of youth and experience, put in a blistering time in 39 degrees heat, testing the Sports Lottery-funded equipment to the limit.

The team – LPT Neil Howe, Lt Dan Todd RNZN, CPO Daz Box and CMEM Brad Bradshaw – were supported throughout by a vociferous crowd, led by Kent's Executive Officer, Lt Cdr Vanessa Spiller and Fleet Recreation Officer Lt Cdr Roger Saynor.

The 2,000m individual competition was won by Concept II guru CMEM Bradshaw for the men, while LMEM Cath Wojcik won the women's event.

HMS Kent is due back in Portsmouth in March.



● The Navy marathon squad lines up at the Iwo Jima memorial in Washington DC.

Navy fall at first hurdle

TOP LANCASHIRE side Farnworth ended the Navy rugby league team's hopes of a good run in the Challenge Cup with a 24-12 victory at Burnaby Road.

The match was keenly contested well into the final quarter before the visitors finally wrested control with two late converted tries.

Although Farnworth took an early lead, the Royal Navy fought back well with a debut try for winger WEA Tom McKenna and a penalty goal from MEM Buck Taylor making the score 6-6.

Almost straight from the restart the Navy took the lead with a well-worked try by LPT Ruby Murray, but Farnworth replied soon after with a converted try of their own – and then gradually began to impose themselves on the game.

Despite strong defence, Farnworth notched another converted try to lead by eight points.

Buck Taylor pegged back two points with a penalty, but they proved to be his side's last score, and the visitors, growing in confidence, scored another try and goal giving them a 24-12 victory.

Farnworth went on to win their second round tie and were hoping for a third-round glamour tie.

Both the Army and RAF won their respective first round ties, but lost out in the second round.

VIP impressed by RN boxers

BOXING legend Barry McGuigan was amongst the guests at a charity boxing dinner held at RN air station Culdrose.

Some of the Navy's finest boxers were pitted against members of the Devon and Cornwall Select squad in an exciting programme at which the principal guest was Rear Admiral Scott Lidbetter, Flag Officer Naval Aviation.

The Navy won 5-1, with Mne David Tang (HMS Nelson) emerging as best boxer of the evening.

WWTR Nicola Smith (HMS Heron) won the women's bout. McGuigan, former world featherweight champion, said: "The standard of boxing was excellent, and very properly conducted, and it is always a great pleasure for me to see young boxers coming into the sport."

NAVY runners again proved tough competition in an emotionally-charged US Marine Corps marathon in Washington DC.

The decision to go ahead with the race, just six weeks after the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, was justified by the presence of 15,000 runners, following a course which took them directly past the damaged wing of the Pentagon.

The presence of the Royal Navy team of six men and three women was much appreciated by the American organisers.

The race between the USMC and the Navy, now in its 24th year, seemed to be going the way of the Americans for the first time in years.

At 22 miles, the Navy looked well out of contention, but steady progress by WO Steve Payne (42 Cdo) brought him through to third place overall in 2h 31m, supported by L/Cpl Brian Cole (CTCRM) in 21st place (2h 40m) and Mne Pete Belcher (42nd in 2h 47m).

That put the Navy team a comfortable 12 minutes ahead of the American team.

Cdr Al Rich, running his 16th Washington marathon, came 58th

in 2h 51m – and first in the Veterans' class.

The Royal Navy's other two male runners ran personal best times – Sgt Mike Beaton (42 Cdo) in 2h 52m and PO Marty Critchlow (HMS Sheffield) in 2h 53m.

The RN women exceeded all expectations in winning the Challenge Cup from the USMC ladies.

PO Lindsay Gannon (Northwood) ran outstandingly well to finish third overall in a time of 2h 54m – improving her personal best by four minutes.

Backing came from PO Heidi Martin (HMS Nelson), also in a personal best time of 3h 17m, and PO Janette Beaton (Blockhouse) in 3h 34m.

Rear Admiral Rees Ward, President of Navy Athletics, was invited by the USMC to present the Challenge Cups to Cdr Rich and PO Gannon in front of the Iwo Jima memorial.

The Royal Navy now lead the USMC by 16-8 in this marathon challenge.

The RN marathon team for this year included the first husband and wife to be selected for the Washington race – PO Naval Nurse Janette Beaton and husband Mike, of 42 Cdo.

● PO Lindsay Gannon is welcomed home at the finish of the USMC marathon in Washington. With her is Rear Admiral Rees Ward, President of Royal Navy Athletics.



Angling is catching on

NAVAL sea angling in the West Country is going from strength to strength after another busy year.

The Plymouth Command took both the boat and shore title in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Angling Association contests, winning the shore title at Weymouth and the boat competition in home waters off Plymouth.

In the boat event, against strong challenges by Portsmouth Command and the Royal Marines, the Plymouth line-up of Steve Clements, Trevor Clarke and Tom Worthy proved too good.

Steve also won the individual title, with 175 points, with Trevor coming third with 129.

Another Plymouth Command angler, Dave Webber, came second with an impressive conger eel of 35lb and a specimen whiting of 3.5lb, both category winners.

A total of 199 good-sized fish were caught during the event, including 18 congers, eight dogfish, a cod and a coalfish.

Steve Clements also notched a notable third place in the high-class Plymouth International Boat Festival – the climax of a fine run of angling success off the Devon and Cornwall coasts.

Other results included Malcolm Ruff in 5th place, Trevor Clarke 8th and Tom Wildman in 15th.

Notable catches included Nat Welham, who landed a 35lb ling, Steve Clements with a 16.5lb cod, and Trevor Clarke with a conger eel over 40lb.

The Plymouth club continues

to turn out a newsletter, which includes news, dates of competitions and other events, and useful information such as obtaining sandeel for bait to the working of the tidal cycle.

Working in the Royal Navy opens plenty of opportunities for the keen angler, and one such example was the expedition undertaken by Steve Clements to the South Atlantic.

Steve headed for Ascension Island, and found himself a good local big-fish skipper.

Out at sea on his first trip in the Rainbow Runner, Steve landed two yellowfin tuna to 60lb, and several dorado.

He booked himself another four trips, and although he couldn't match the first time haul, he did catch another ten yellowfins (very good eating, according to Steve), four dorado, two rainbow runners and one or two Atlantic Jacks.

For details, contact Steve on 9380 26619



● (Above) Nat Welham with a 29lb ling from the International Boat Festival.

● (Right) Chris Wildman with 44lb conger at the British Conger Championships.



● (Left) Steve Clements with yellowfin tuna during an expedition to Ascension Island

Last RNAS pilot dies at 101

THE LAST World War I RN pilot, Conrad Philip Bristow, has died just two weeks short of his 102nd birthday.

Philip Bristow joined the Royal Naval Air Service in 1917. He was summoned to London for an Admiralty board and on his 18th birthday made his way to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich as a Probationary Flying Officer, learning navigation, the principles of flight and how to take apart and put together a machine gun.

The next stage of his training was actual flight – and he headed off for France, to Vendôme in La Rochelle.

He was taken aloft in a Caudron biplane a few times until judged ready for his first solo flight. Then it was "Off you go, Bristow!" – and off he went, his son

John recalled him saying.

After circling above the French countryside and making a perfect landing on the bumpy grass, Philip taxied hurriedly over to his instructor to ask if he had qualified as a pilot. "Yes, but don't you taxi as fast as that!" came the reply.

Philip then returned to the Naval Air Station at Lee-on-Solent for training in seaplanes.

These required new techniques, water presenting a difficult platform for both take-off and landing – and at Lee there was the added problem of having to avoid the jutting pier.

Once fully trained, Philip moved on to Westgate-on-Sea to begin submarine surveillance flights.

Being downed at sea was a serious risk for Naval pilots, not least because of the unreliability of the engines, and each air-

craft trailed a long copper wire to act as a radio aerial – and two carrier pigeons as a back-up in calling for assistance.

On three occasions he ditched with mechanical problems. He was rescued in turn by a trawler, a drifter and a British destroyer – twice employing his pigeons!

In April 1918 the RNAS was absorbed into the newly formed Royal Air Force and Philip left the RAF as a flight lieutenant in May 1919 to rejoin the family glass merchants business in Cardiff, of which he became managing director in 1938.

But he kept his Naval uniform throughout his time at Westgate and described his RAF uniform as "rarely worn".

Philip Bristow was made a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1999. His wife Norah died in 1983 and he is survived by two children, five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



● S/Lt Philip Bristow in his Short 184 260hp seaplane at RN air station Westgate on Sea, 1918.

Double rescue by Navy ships

ROYAL Navy ships were involved in two rescues in the weeks before Christmas.

First into action was the fishery protection vessel HMS Anglesey, called to the merchant vessel mv Rosebank, on fire in the approaches to Sunderland.

After the five-man crew was lifted off by a helicopter from RAF Bulmer, Anglesey suppressed the most serious fires before allowing a salvage tug to complete the job.

Anglesey remained on fishery protection duties until just before Christmas, making her one of the last Navy ships to return home for leave.

The action switched to the west coast when a call came in from mv Dina, a Barbados-flagged vessel carrying fluorspar, which signalled she was sinking between Land's End and SW Wales.

Miner HMS Blyth was on her way from Portsmouth to Faslane and was only six miles away when the distress call went out, and she was able to pick up four of the eight-man crew from the sea.

The other four were picked up by an RAF helicopter from Chivenor. As Blyth went about the rescue, HMS Brocklesby stood by and by the time Blyth withdrew the Dina was listing heavily.

Students relive radio pioneer's magic moment

TINFOIL from Tesco's – plus plenty of Royal Navy ingenuity – helped Thunderer Squadron keep their date with destiny.

As a course project, student engineers were planning to recreate the original transatlantic wireless signal which Guglielmo Marconi claimed he heard in Canada, more than 2,000 miles away, on December 12, 1901.

But some components of the 1914 Navy Type 2 rotary spark gap transmitter, on loan from the HMS Collingwood Communications and Radar Museum, failed in the build-up to the big day – including a vital piece of zinc foil.

The officer in charge of the project, Lt Mickey Rooney, bought a roll of tinfoil from the local Tesco's and painstakingly recreated the component, which worked perfectly.

He now believes he has introduced a new unit of scientific measurement... "I told someone the transmitter had a capacitance of about 30 turkeys," said Lt Rooney.

The signal – three bursts of the letter S (three dots) in Morse code – was sent from the original site, on National Trust land at Poldhu

Cove in Cornwall, on Marconi-type equipment by Marconi's grandson Guglielmo.

Because of the frequency allotted them, the signal was unlikely to make it all the way across, so a repeated signal was sent from modern equipment in the North of England, allowing military students in the USA and Canada to test their receivers.

The transmitter was housed in the back of a Transit van on loan to the students, who are on the RN engineering sponsorship scheme at Southampton University.

The RN was closely involved in the early development of wireless technology. As Marconi carried out his experiments in the mid 1890s, Capt Henry Jackson was following a parallel course in Britain.

□ Special feature next month.

Submarine VC Tommy Gould

TOMMY Gould, one of the most celebrated VCs of World War II, has died at 86.

On February 16, 1942 he was serving as a petty officer in the submarine HMS Thrasher when she sank a German supply ship off Crete.

The boat was depth charged and bombed in retaliation and when she resurfaced after nightfall two unexploded bombs were found lodged aboard.

Gould and the first lieutenant, Lt Peter Roberts, volunteered to remove them. The first was taken off without too much trouble – but the second was stuck inside the submarine's deck casing.

Gould and Roberts had to crawl 20ft in the dark to get at it – knowing that if enemy patrols appeared

Thrasher's captain would be forced to dive and they would drown. Both men were awarded the Victoria Cross.

Lt Cdr Gould, for many years president of the UK branch of the International Submarine Association, lost a younger brother in the Submarine Service.

He joined the RN in 1933 and the RNVR in 1946, at the same time espousing the Zionist cause in protest against the British Government's policy towards Palestine and the restrictions on Jewish immigrants from Europe.

His wife died in 1985 and he is survived by their only son.



FINAL DELIVERY

HMS SHOREHAM, last of the world-leading Sandown-class minehunters, has been handed over to the Royal Navy.

All 12 of the class have been built by Vosper Thornycroft. Said Commodore Richard Clapp, head of Minor War Vessels: "HMS Shoreham represents the last of a very successful class of ships to join the Royal Navy, which have proved their capabilities most recently in the clearance of considerable quantities of live World War II ordnance in the Baltic." (See centre pages).

LORD NELSON BUST



Lord Nelson stands tall at an impressive 12"

Items not shown actual size.

Simulated Ivory

£80.25 inc P&P UK

Simulated Bronze on wood base

£85.99 inc P&P UK

Please telephone for overseas prices

The Sculptor Anthony Leonard was commissioned in 1997 by the International Nelson Society to create this bust of Lord Nelson. It is an accepted fact that the likeness he achieved is correct in every detail, including his medals and awards. They are the Turkish Order of the Crescent, The Order of St Goachim and The Order of Trinidad. The medals around his neck are of the Cape St Vincent and Nile battles.

Contrary to the belief of many people Lord Nelson did not wear an eye patch as he thought it would detract attention from his good looks. He did however have a special green eyeshade made for his bicorne hat to protect his eye.

This beautiful simulated bronze bust is mounted on a solid wood, hand polished plinth.

To receive one of these heritage sculptures please phone us on

023 9282 6040

with your credit card details, or fill out the coupon on page 4.

Or send a cheque/Postal Order for the amount shown to:

The Business Manager, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Also available is a 7"x4" Limited Edition bust of Sir Winston Churchill featuring him dressed in his Royal Yacht Squadron uniform. For more information contact us at the address above.

